

Rate demands halted by town hall staffs

Town hall staffs are starting immediate industrial action that will halt the collection of rates. The National and Local Government Officers' Association is also instructing the rest of its 500,000 members in local authorities to take similar actions which could, among other things, stop inter flights from municipal airports.

Pay dispute threatens holiday flights

David Felton, our Reporter, says that industrial action by nearly 100 local authority white-collar workers, aimed at halting the collection of rates, could lead to local councils facing financial difficulties. The first programme of industrial action by town hall staff is to start immediately, and is part of a wider-ranging programme of sanctions by the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalga) in protest of a dispute over holiday flights from municipal airports.

The programme of action was announced by the union yesterday after the breakdown of talks between local authority employers and Nalga over a pay dispute. The union says that it is taking action because of a "serious money problem" in local councils. The union says that it is taking action because of a "serious money problem" in local councils.

Mr Alan Jenkinson, Nalga's general secretary, said last night: "I think this action will have the most dramatic effect on the government of any industrial action that has taken place in the last 10 years. It will mean that the government will be unable to pay its bills and that it will be forced to take action to stop the action."

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Steel peace talks make slow progress

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Peace talks aimed at ending the national steel strike, which today enters its eleventh week, made disappointingly slow progress on their second day yesterday.

After nine hours the British Steel Corporation and leaders of a 13-member trade union consortium had not got down to talking about the costs of a new joint package put forward by the strike leaders.

The delay suggests that an early settlement of the longest national strike in recent British industrial history is not seriously in prospect.

The unions are holding out for an 18 per cent settlement and the militant blastfurnacemen are underlining their determination to walk out if negotiations do not produce an acceptable new offer.

Detailed talks on the unions' "comprehensive" plan went on all day before the question of pay rise levels was reached and an adjournment until later today was expected.

The two sides were arguing, at times with some bitterness, about the value of trade union promises on job flexibility, local productivity bargaining, demanning in the steelworks, and the establishment of national wage-bargaining machinery in the industry.

While the talks took place at BSC headquarters, the strike broadsheet of the main union, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC), accused the corporation of using public funds to keep the strike going and finance big purchases of foreign steel for its British customers.

In the ISTC strike paper, *Steelworkers' Banner*, the union said: "It has already been admitted that BSC has lost over £450m since the strike started—far more than the extra £40m it would cost to make a reasonable settlement in line with the unions' compromise proposals."

"BSC are also managing to find the wherewithal to finance huge purchases of foreign steel for their United Kingdom customers."

"How much this steel is costing, and how much is being spent in order to sneak it past our pickets is anybody's guess. Some steel imports are being flown in through Heathrow airport."

The corporation last night admitted that it was buying in some foreign steel, but argued that that was customary practice during an industrial dispute to meet contractual obligations.

The ISTC paper went on: "It is obvious that the corporation is receiving large injections of public funds to help it undermine the steel strike. The sky's the limit when it comes to strike-breaking."

However, both the Government and the BSC had gravely underestimated the determination of steel workers, it said. They cannot believe, even after 10 weeks, that steel men will not "but having gone this far, and having gained their second wind, steel workers would endure another 10 weeks on strike if necessary rather than submit to Scholey (chief executive of BSC) and Joseph (Secretary of State for Industry)."

Other steel news, page 2



Photograph by Brian Harris

Women medical students, dressed as suffragettes, chained themselves to the gates of the Senate House of London University yesterday protesting at the proposals in the Flowers Report to reduce London's medical and dental schools from 34 to six (writes Nicholas Timmins).

More than 300 students, backed by senior staff, from the medical schools of the Royal Free, King's, Westminster and Middlesex hospitals sang and waved banners.

They emptied a coffin of flowers and trampled on them, burnt a copy of the report, and climbed on the Senate House portico to chalk "Save our Schools" slogans on walls.

The Royal Free women, dressed as suffragettes, were the first to admit women.

Nkomo men only given four posts in Cabinet

From Nicholas Ashford, Salisbury, March 11

Mr Robert Mugabe, formally appointed Prime Minister this afternoon by Lord Soames, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, today completed the formation of a Government which will take over the running of the country when Zimbabwe becomes independent.

The Government comprises 23 portfolios, two of which have been given to Europeans and four to members of Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zapu Party. There are also 13 deputy ministers, all but two of which have been given to members of Mr Mugabe's own Zanu Party.

Although the Government is designed to be broadly representative of the population as a whole, its composition is weighted in favour of Zanu which won 57 out of the 80 common roll seats in last month's general election. Apart from Mr Nkomo, who is given the key portfolio of Home Affairs, the three other ministers from his party have been given relatively minor posts. Similarly, among the deputy ministers the two Zapu representatives have been given the two most junior posts.

As expected, Mr David Smith, Minister of Finance, is the Zanu representative in the cabinet. He is also given the key portfolio of Finance. Mr Smith, who has been given the Commerce and Industry portfolio, has been given the Commerce and Industry portfolio. He is also given the Commerce and Industry portfolio.

The appointment of whites to head two important economic ministries is designed to retain the confidence of the European community, particularly in the business and agricultural sectors. Mr Norman will be primarily responsible for the

UN mission refuses to report on Shah until hostages visited

From Michael Leapman, New York, March 11

Dr Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary General, affirmed here today that the United Nations mission to Tehran would not issue any report unless it was eventually able to see the American hostages.

Although the five commissioners will return here tomorrow for consultations, Dr Waldheim emphasized that their work had been suspended rather than terminated and that the second phase of the operation was about to begin.

After being briefed by them tomorrow, "we shall decide how to proceed further," he said. "The time will come when we shall solve this question. It is just a question of time."

Reports from Tehran say that the young Iranians holding the hostages will consider releasing them only after the commission has issued its report on alleged crimes by the former Shah. But Dr Waldheim said: "For the time being there will be no report—I want to make that crystal clear—since the commission was unable to fulfil its mission as to its work and could not see the hostages."

In an apparent attempt to deflect criticism of United Nations handling of the matter, he added: "It is important for you to know that all the steps that have been taken by me to send the mission to Tehran were considered and discussed with the two governments and they fully supported it."

I feel encouraged by the reaction on both sides. The Iranian authorities have made constructive statements expressing their readiness to continue the effort.

But there is a power struggle in Iran. It is clear that the views of the students in the compound. We have this problem and this in one of the reasons the commission returned.

Appealing directly to reporters, he said: "Please have patience. This is an honest attempt. Never in my whole career was I trying so hard to achieve a resolution of such a delicate matter."

He went on: "Has anybody who criticises us offered a better alternative than the one I have offered with the commission? I feel sorry that this development means a further delay but nobody has offered a better alternative."

Tony Alloway writes from Tehran: The United Nations commission has an ignominious retreat from Tehran today, having failed to break the crisis between Iran and the United States.

In spite of last-minute pleading by Mr Sadegh Qorbadeh, the Foreign Minister, to prolong their stay, the commission left Tehran at 8.10 am on a flight for Zurich, all but admitting their trip had been a failure.

Behind them, the 49 American hostages in the occupied embassy whom the commission never managed to see, awake in their one hundred and twenty-ninth day of captivity, probably unaware of the fuss that has raged in the past week around their heads.

It now looks almost certain that no fresh moves can be made to effect their release until late April, when an as yet unselected Parliament is expected to meet. The Iranian leadership, however, has been entrusted by Ayatollah Khomeini with the task of making a decision on the hostages.

The ruling Revolutionary Council was said to be discussing the commission at its meeting tonight, but it was difficult to say whether it was

Continued on page 6, col 5

President Zia said to have crushed coup attempt by army officers

By David Watts

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan crushed an attempted coup by some of his fellow army officers last week, according to reports reaching London yesterday. The reports were denied by Pakistani officials and by the London embassy.

Detailed information on the attempt was hard to verify but it appears that at least three generals and 18 other officers were arrested last Tuesday and Wednesday and it is understood that among those held was Lieutenant General Muhammad Iqbal, the deputy chief of staff of the army. Other senior officers held were Major-General Saghir Hussain and Abbas.

The reported arrest of General Iqbal makes the attempted coup the most serious challenge to General Zia's rule since he seized power after fraudulent elections under the late President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. It throws into question the reliability of Pakistan as an ally of the United States and the West in its confrontation with the Soviet Union over Afghanistan.

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General Zia has never been a popular leader, even among his army colleagues, and while there seems to have been no single reason for his fellow officers' defection to the coup, the sources in London indicate that it was General Zia's rejection of an American military aid package last week which sparked the unrest.

General Zia called the original American offer of aid, worth \$400m (£180m) "peanuts" as his military regime basked in the centre of world attention as the country on the "front-line" with the Soviet Union. General Zia believed that the Americans were ready to give him practically anything he wanted, according to the sources, and consequently drove home the message that \$400m worth of military equipment was nothing compared with the task facing his army.

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Yugoslav leaders plea for unity

From Dusan Trevisan, Belgrade, March 11

Yugoslav leaders met in an emergency session today and appealed for national unity as the doctors continued to struggle to prolong President Tito's life.

For the past three days, medical bulletins kept repeating that President Tito's condition, which declined critically last weekend, remained grave. Today's meeting of Yugoslavia's state and party presidencies suggests that the Yugoslav leaders are preparing the nation for what now looks like Marshal Tito's death.

Members of the two presidencies met in a joint session, which was also attended by other high-ranking state functionaries.

Today, the leadership voiced its satisfaction over the high degree of responsibility and full unity which was demonstrated by the people in recent weeks.

They also emphasized Yugoslavia's stability and readiness to carry out President Tito's policies and, in particular, to resist any threat to the country's independence.

Archbishop urges athletes to boycott Olympics

Archbishop of Canterbury has advocated a boycott of the Olympic Games, the cause of the Archbishop's criticism and the punishment of athletes who are involved in the human rights movement in Moscow. He said he felt that athletes would not go to the Olympics. Meanwhile the British Olympic Association says it still needs £400,000 to make up the £1m to send a full team to Games.

GB on spy alert

KGB general has warned Russians that West is busy recruiting spies to find out more about the country's economic situation. They also aim to undermine the movements of socialism, the general says. The KGB call for vigilance against the tightening of internal controls in preparation for the Moscow Olympics.

Body found on tip

A man remains discovered on a rubbish tip near Belfast may be those of Mr Thomas Dermeyer, the German industrialist and honorary consul, who disappeared after being kidnapped six years ago. Identity clues were sought by pathologists and forensic experts who examined the remains which had been uncovered by a mechanical digger.

Afghans' gratitude

Soviet Army newspaper has published reports and photographs to reassure soldiers bound for Afghanistan that they will get a warm welcome from villagers and tribesmen. The attitude of "all honest citizens" to the troops was one of "incense hospitality and profound gratitude."

BC orchestras' future

Philip Sidney, chairman of the Royal Television Society, calls for the setting up of an independent body to take over the BBC orchestras to safeguard their future. It would be jointly financed by the BBC and the commercial television and radio contractors.

Mr Reagan criticizes former President Ford

President Carter and Mr Reagan are clear favourites with all the southern presidential primaries in Florida, Georgia and Alabama. Mr Bush said he would like to finish "respectably" in Florida. Mr Reagan has criticized former President Ford for claiming he (Mr Reagan) could not win the presidential nomination.

'Trade-off' denied

A Western resolution in the United Nations Human Rights Commission expressing concern over Dr Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident scientist, has been abandoned in favour of a "compromise proposal" adopted without a vote. The United States delegate denied a Peruvian allegation that there was a superpower "trade off" over a Soviet draft resolution alleging rights violations in Northern Ireland.

Thatcher TV success

The force of Mrs Thatcher's personality, rather than what she said, was what most impressed viewers of her French television broadcast on Britain's role in Europe. In a country which believes that a woman cannot have a strong political instinct and remain feminine, the Prime Minister appears to have convinced her audience that such a combination is possible.

ATV is criticized

ATV has been accused of stage-managing an act of damage by children for a programme. The chief executive of Nottinghamshire County Council complained in a letter to ATV that he believed a filmed sequence was in breach of the Independent Broadcasting Authority Act.

M25 case fails

Miss Lesley Lovelock, a secretary failed in the High Court in an attempt to quash the compulsory purchase orders on Green Belt land needed for the M25 London outer orbital motorway.

Opposition combines against Mrs Gandhi

Opposition parties in the Indian Parliament have combined to put pressure on Mrs Gandhi's Government. The entire opposition in the Lok Sabha walked out of the budget session after the Speaker rejected adjournment motions relating to price rises and atrocities against Harijans in the Upper House there were protests against the dissolution of nine state assemblies.

Nuclear bill: Safety factors will boost the inflationary cost of new nuclear power stations, an economic expert claims.

Photographer loses appeal: A press photographer who was convicted of an offence after taking photographs of an Army bomb disposal unit lost his appeal.

Classified advertisements: Appointments, pages 5, 20; La crème de la crème, 24, 25; Personal, 25, 28; Property, 26, 27.

Leader page, 15. Letters: On the lessons of Zimbabwe's elections, 10, 11. 800 music cuts, from Roger Young; on "Gone for a Soldier", from Field-Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton.

Leading articles: Mr Mugabe broadens his base; Auditor General's duties; Asian and the EEC.

Arts, page 9. Patrick J. Smith reports from New York on the decline of the American record industry; Ned Chait interviews Donald Pleasence, who opens in *Reflections* at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, tomorrow.

Features, pages 8, 14. Bernard Levin on the dilemma inside the Labour Party; Ronald Faux on the falcons; Sir Ashley Bramall on the future of the LLEA.

Sport, pages 10, 11. Racing: Sea Pigeon wins Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham; Ice Skating: Cousins makes shaky start at Dortmund; Football: Manchester City sign Reeves for £1m; Rugby Union: Neary approaching 143rd cap at Murrayfield.

Obituary, page 17. Mr J. D. Scott, Miss Irene Hilton, Olga Chekova.

Business News, pages 18-23. Equities were brighter despite a beating in some sectors but gilts continue to mark time. The FT index closed at 455.6, 3.3 up. Financial Editor: Juggling with the banking figures; Midland Bank cash still coming in.

British Shipbuilders wins £50m orders

By John Huxley

British Shipbuilders has won orders worth about £50m. They involve the building or conversion of five ships and will bring much-needed work to yards in the North-East, Clydeside, the south coast of England, and Northern Ireland.

Despite the relief at winning the orders against strong competition from overseas, the state-owned group is unlikely to make a profit on them. The surplus it can expect to earn on the one naval craft will be swallowed up by losses incurred on the four merchant ship orders.

BS, which will make losses of almost £100m in the year ending in April, does not cover costs on merchant ship orders, in common with virtually every other European builder. However, the present contracts, which extend the merchant ship forward order book to £570m, will provide work for the core yards around which the shipbuilding industry is being created in preparation for the expected improvement in market conditions next year.

Government assistance under the terms of the Industry Act is being sought for the four merchant ship orders.

Smith's Dock of Middlesbrough has signed a £25m contract with Geste Industries, of Spain, to build two 435,000 cubic feet refrigerated cargo vessels for delivery in the second half of 1981. This will provide work for 1,500 men on Teesside, for at least 18 months.

Intervention fund assistance has been sought.

Covan Shipbuilders on Clyde-side has won an order against competition from Japan and other European yards to "re-engine" two 29,000 deadweight "Encounter Bay" class container ships to diesel power for Overseas Containers.

The engines will be supplied by Harland and Wolff of Belfast, and the total value of the contract is put at more than £10m.

No.1 bestseller Smiley's People

"For its energy, compassion, rich and overwhelming sweep of character and action *The Honourable Schoolboy* was simply one of the finest English novels of the

If you have about £9000 or more to spend on a car, Toyota is probably not the first name that will spring to mind.

You're more likely to think of a car like a Volvo 264, or a BMW 525, or a Mercedes 230.

Not surprisingly, for all three are desirable cars with illustrious names.

But before you make your choice, let us put the arguments for considering the new Toyota Crown. And demonstrate, with facts rather than opinions, that we are not getting ideas above our station.

COMFORT.

We might describe the plushness of the Crown's seats, the spaciousness of its interior, the smoothness and quietness of its ride. But these are qualities which only a test drive will reveal.

Instead, we'll mention some of the ways in which the Crown cares for your comfort and its three rivals do not.

The seats have height adjustable headrests which are also adjustable fore and aft in the front. The driver's seat is adjustable for height and lumbar support.

The Crown, in fact, is a very adjustable car, so the small businessman will feel as comfortable as the big City magnate.

And only the Crown has air conditioning and an air purifier as standard equipment. Winter and summer, it keeps the air fresh as a daisy.

And should you, on a long drive, feel that a cool glass of Perrier would not go amiss, there is a cooler-box in the rear window shelf.

EQUIPMENT.

The Crown is, quite simply, far better equipped than any of its three rivals. It is better equipped, indeed, than any other car at its price and many which cost a great deal more.

It has an auto-reverse stereo cassette player with four speakers, and

a cassette box in the front console.

It has a self-seeking VHF/MW/LV stereo radio, and an electric aerial.

The electric windows can be opened and closed individually or from the driver's seat. The fuel filler tap, outside mirror and boot lid are all remote control.

There's a digital quartz clock, and all four seats have separate reading lamps.

The new Toyota Crown gives an overall 24.2 mpg, which is better than the Volvo, BMW and Mercedes.

It has electronic fuel injection, which uses petrol more efficiently, and responds more quickly than a conventional carburettor.

And its automatic gearbox has overdrive, which you can select manually and reduces petrol consumption when you are cruising.

THE COMPELLING ARGUMENTS FOR BUYING A TOYOTA. RATHER THAN A VOLVO, BMW OR MERCEDES.

You can control the radio and air conditioning from the front seat if you are driving, or from the rear seat if your chauffeur is driving.

All three of our rivals offer you great comfort. Only the Crown offers you such luxury.

ECONOMY.

There was a time when economy would have had no place in an advertisement for a luxury car.

That, though, was before the days of the £1.25 gallon.

PERFORMANCE.

Here, you might not expect us to come first. But you would be wrong.

The Crown's 2.8 litre engine takes it from 0 to 60 mph in 11.1 seconds, which is 0.6 seconds faster than the BMW 525 Automatic.*

Its power steering is speed-sensitive. The lower your speed, the more assistance it gives you. So the Crown is as easy to manoeuvre in Threadneedle Street as on the M1.

SAFETY.

To protect you and your family in an accident, the Crown has a rigid steel passenger cell and crumple zones front and rear.

It has central door locking and inertia reel seat belts.

To prevent you getting into an accident, it has power-assisted brakes, four quartz-halogen headlamps and a rear fog warning lamp.

It has warning lights for the handbrake, brake fluid level and rear lights. The windows are tinted, to reduce glare.

RELIABILITY.

At this stage of the argument, we will let others speak for us.

According to the German equivalent of the MOT, a Toyota is the most reliable car after two years on the road.

According to an independent British consumer survey, Toyotas suffer from fewer faults than any other make of car. And, in the unlikely event of your needing them, spare parts are easy to get and repair costs are low.

A luxury car, after all, should be more than a comfortable place to sit in while you wait for the AA to arrive.

THE FINAL ARGUMENT.

A glance at the picture below will show that the new Crown will not look out of place outside the most elegant of houses.

Certainly, its new lines do not give away the most surprising fact of all:

The Toyota Crown costs £8,500. £400 less than the Volvo, nearly £500 less than the Mercedes, nearly £800 less than the BMW.

Not, we suspect, that you'd be influenced by a question of mere money. Any more than you'd be influenced by a famous name.

TOYOTA

Everything keeps going right.



THE NEW TOYOTA CROWN

HOME NEWS

Archbishop of Canterbury advises British athletes not to take part in the Moscow Olympics

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Robert Runcie, added his weight yesterday to the pressure on British athletes not to take part in the Moscow Olympic Games this summer. "I feel they won't go," he commented.

He was answering questions at a Foreign Press Association lunch in London, and indicated at one point that he expected in due course to pay a visit to Pope John Paul II.

In reply to another question, he said he had not been asked for advice by the Royal Prince on the possibility of the Prince of Wales marrying a Roman Catholic, and declined to comment further.

On the Olympic boycott, Archbishop Runcie said: "I am against, as far as possible, barriers and obstacles that break down that sort of communication. But I think it is an illusion to suppose that you can separate politics from sport in this instance."

I am sorry about this because I came at the beginning, to believe it was an opportunity. It sickens me. I believe this is a case where, as, although I'm hopeful of a change, my advice would be "that they should not go".

That was Archbishop Runcie's first statement on a matter of public controversy since his appointment at the end of last month, and it echoed the sentiments of the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, when he spoke at the February meeting of the General Synod of the Church of England, and was loudly applauded by the church leaders present.

Archbishop Runcie was, as Bishop of St Albans, the Anglican Communion's leading figure in relations with the orthodox churches, including the Russian Orthodox Church, and he has many contacts and friends in the Soviet Union. In advocating a boycott of the Olympic Games, he referred to the "clean-up operation involving people I know in Moscow".

The Soviet authorities recently took steps to punish leaders of the human rights movement in Moscow.

He said he had exchanged "letters and conversations" with the Pope, in a way which would make an invitation for

a meeting fairly easy. But he did not want to rush into it until he had thought about all the implications. The Pope was to be personally represented at his enthronement later this month.

Asked about the Prince of Wales marrying a Roman Catholic, the archbishop said he had learnt from recent experience that this was the sort of question he ought not to answer.

"It is entirely hypothetical, beyond my assuring you that I have not been asked for my advice on that issue," he said. Display withdrawn: A display about the Olympics was hastily withdrawn from a sports exhibition opened yesterday by the Duke of Edinburgh (the Press Association writes).

The exhibition, at the Stock Exchange, is organized by the Central Council of Physical Recreation, of which the Duke is president. It has scores of displays about sport.

"We had a really good one prepared about the Moscow Olympics but we realized the trouble it might cause and decided to send it back to the Russian Embassy," the CPR said. "We do not want unnecessary controversy."

Games but by the uncertainty over the Afghanistan crisis, has caused," Mr Nicholson said.

Most of the balance must come from private donations, whether solicited or as a result of the BOA's publicity drives in 17,000 sports clubs and in every school in the country.

Fund managers report that the Government's decision to withdraw support from the Games has resulted in an upsurge in private postal donations, from £1 upwards.

Because of the uncertainty over the rightness of being seen in Moscow, the BOA has, for the time being, stopped approaches to commercial companies for funds, either in the form of direct donations or by licensing fees for use of the British Olympic logo.

For the moment the fund is relying heavily on private donations and has still to raise up to £200,000 from individuals.

For all the stricture, Britain managed to send one of its larger teams of athletes to Lake Placid, at a cost of £150,000, with the help of commercial sponsorship but no government aid.

Mr George Nicholson, appeals secretary of the BOA, told *The Times* yesterday that there was no doubt about a British team going to Moscow, the only doubt, depending on the success of the appeal fund, was how big the team would be.

This country has always taken the view that as many sportsmen as possible should participate in the Olympics; we have never restricted ourselves to sending only those who are sure to bring back medals," he said.

From a purely financial viewpoint, the Government's decision

not to offer any state support to this year's Olympic squad has not been the cruel blow to the organizers that it might appear. In the past, government aid has been limited to underwriting the cost of the athletes' travel to Moscow.

The Olympic organizers have not yet had to call on the Government's safety net.

So far this year British commercial companies have given or promised about £300,000, either in cash or kind, such as shoes and clothes. In spite of the uncertainty surrounding the Games, appeal officials report that only three companies which have promised support have not yet delivered their cheques, and the association says it has no reason to doubt that they will fulfil their promises.

In 1976 about £170,000 of the total budget of £500,000 was provided from industry and commerce.

This year the amount is greater but it still falls far short of the Olympic squad's needs.

"The problem the fund is facing is caused not by the political controversy over the rights and wrongs of the Moscow

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Another £400,000 needed to send full team to the games

By Alan Hamilton

Another £400,000 needs to be raised by voluntary subscription and commercial sponsorship between now and July if Britain is to send a full team to the Moscow Olympics.

The British Olympic Association, which has set a target of £1m to cover the cost of participation in both the summer Games in Moscow and the Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, has so far attracted donations and promises worth nearly £500,000. The cost of taking part has doubled since the Montreal Olympics of 1976.

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HOME NEWS

Secretary loses court action to stop M25 Green Belt extension

Frances Gibb

Miss Lesley Lovelock, a secretary, yesterday lost her case in the High Court to stop a £30m motorway extension to the M25 which would pass through the Green Belt.

She asked the court to quash compulsory purchase orders made by the Minister of Transport last September for Green Belt land on the ground that it had failed to comply with proper procedures in giving notice of the orders.

Mr Justice Willes ruled there had been no breach of natural justice, as argued by Miss Lovelock's counsel, and that the orders should stand.

It was true, he said, that the notice of the orders had been advertised so as to give statutory notice of the proposed extension could be lodged. By time one notice was advertised, the day for lodging objections had passed.

He did not accept that the confusion of potential objectors did not lodge protests in alternative routes when they had not been correctly publicized, then they would have been heard there not been an offer to hear their objections at all. There was no evidence that that was the case.

Any genuine wish to put forward an alternative route would have been questioned and managed to put their proposal forward. That no one did suggested the opposite; that no one wished to.

It said: "There must be no further delay on this section of the M25 London outer orbital motorway. It is of great importance and value to industry and commerce."

Mr Justice Willes, in his ruling, said the department's inspector had not been obliged to hear objections; that was at his discretion. The question, therefore, was whether potential objectors were worse off in that their opportunity to object had not been correctly publicized, then they would have been heard there not been an offer to hear their objections at all. There was no evidence that that was the case.

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Man loses appeal over bomb unit photographs

From Our Correspondent

Lawrence Mercer, aged 32, a press photographer, who was convicted of acting in a manner likely to cause a breach of the peace by insisting on taking photographs of an Army bomb disposal unit, had his appeal against conviction dismissed, with costs, by Judge Bush, the recorder, in a test case at Leeds Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Mercer, a staff photographer on *The Yorkshire Post*, was bound over by the Leeds stipendiary magistrate to keep the peace for a year.

The case arose because he took a photograph of a bomb disposal unit in Aire Street, Leeds, last June. The court was told yesterday that bomb disposal squad officers made earnest and sincere requests through the police not to be photographed.

They were on call for Northern Ireland. They feared that if identifiable pictures were published, wives and families would be in extreme danger.

Mr Mercer sought advice from his editor at one stage and returned to the scene. He was arrested when he began taking photographs.

The recorder said Mr Mercer had disregarded the police requests and his editor's advice. "That is not unlawful," he added.

He said the freedom of the press was a principle which our society was built on and another was upholding the law. The recorder made it clear he would have taken forceful action if he was aware photographs were being taken.

The recorder said he found there was a real risk of a breach of the peace at the time of the arrest.

It was a most unfortunate case he continued. He hoped a working arrangement could be arrived at where bomb disposal officers risking their lives to save the public were not distracted with fears for their safety through photographs and, on the other hand, press photographers were not left wondering if they were falling in their duty.

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It was a most unfortunate case he continued. He hoped a working arrangement could be arrived at where bomb disposal officers risking their lives to save the public were not distracted with fears for their safety through photographs and, on the other hand, press photographers were not left wondering if they were falling in their duty.

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Millionth visitor: Mr David Attenborough presenting a copy of his book *Life on Earth* to Patrick Flynn, aged 12, of St Olave's School, Orpington, who yesterday became the millionth child to attend London Zoo's educational and lecture tours. With them is a llama named Charlie. The education department of the Zoological Society of London was formed in 1958 and Mr Attenborough was one of the founder-members of the society's educational committee. A total of 58,881 children took part last year.

BBC is urged to begin talks on pay

By a Staff Reporter

Pay negotiations between the BBC and the unions representing its 28,000 staff begin in a fortnight without any decision having been taken by the Central Arbitration Committee on the claim for comparability with workers in independent television.

In a statement yesterday the committee said it had adjourned further consideration of the claim with the suggestion that the parties begin negotiations as soon as possible on a settlement due to be made on April 1, the start of the BBC's new pay year.

In his letter, of February 28, to staff Mr Ian Trethowan, BBC's director-general, referred to a figure of 16 per cent being set aside for such matters as wages and salaries.

An award in respect of London weighting was made in February, backdated to last July.

The BBC is seeking to save £130m over the next two years with a staff reduction of 1,500. The proposed cuts, which will be discussed again by the BBC board of governors next week, brought a protest yesterday from most of the staff of Radio London.

Official forecast '100% out' on airport security levy

Mr Kenneth Franklin, head of the Horizon holiday company, said yesterday that the Department of Trade was almost 100 per cent out in forecasting the rise in the security levy at airports.

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Instead of a planned rise of about 30p in the levy to £1.10 it was suddenly decided to push it up to £1.60. That meant the extra holiday charge for a family of four would rise from last year's £3.20 to £6.40 next month, he told the Association of British Travel Agents' conference in Bournemouth.

The British Airports Authority had changed its rules for cheaper midweek flights, which had "caused havoc" to operators advertising keenly priced flights on Fridays. At Gatwick now Friday flights were a part of much more expensive "weekend" flights.

If government departments, "quangos" and airport authorities were as efficient in budgeting their charges as the tour companies, many surcharge items could be dispensed with, Mr Franklin said.

But people did not complain when their mortgage repayments automatically increased

as interest rates rose, or when the price of a new car went up after they had ordered it.

Since his company's brochure had been printed, the company had been notified of 55 surcharges, some for several airports and others for single airports. They covered passenger taxes, landing, customs, handling and security charges, and 35 changes in the price of fuel.

Work had started on the 1981 holiday brochures for which negotiations with airlines and hotels had to be completed by mid-summer so that the brochures could be printed early in August, a year ahead of next summer's peak season.

Mr Franklin said the main surcharge on the summer holidays would be caused by the increases in aviation fuel prices, which had doubled in the past year.

He disagreed with Mr Clifford Jones, a Manchester travel agent who said that agents were being called "the sharp practitioners of the year".

Mr Jones said that travel companies should explain more fully that the big oil surcharges were simply "shekels" increases over which the operators had no control.

Trains and rain could decide by-election

From Ian Bradley, Southend

Two unknown factors seem likely to determine the result of the Southend, East, by-election tomorrow: the weather and the reliability of the train service to and from Fenchurch Street.

The weather will decide how many of the constituency's 14,000 pensioners more than a quarter of the electorate come out to vote. Most are committed to Mr Edward Taylor, the Conservative candidate, whose policies on law and order and the defence of traditional moral values attract many of the elderly. Bad weather could well keep them at home and reduce the chances of a Tory victory.

The train service on the Southend line, one of the most unreliable in the country, could influence the voting pattern of the 7,000 commuters who live in the constituency.

Both the Conservative and Liberal parties were woeing them yesterday. The Liberals had Mr David Alton, MP and Mr David Penhaligon, MP out at 7 am to speed them on their way to work while the Conservatives had Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, greeting them as they came back in the late afternoon.

The Liberal and Conservative candidates also produced letters from Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, promising a better service on the Southend line, including such delights as through corridor connections to improve access to lavatories.

Mr Taylor admitted: "A lot will depend on whether the improvement in train services takes place tomorrow."

The Labour Party shunned such parochial issues and fielded 11 MPs, most of them from Scottish constituencies, including Mr John Maxton, who unseated Mr Taylor at Glasgow, Cathcart, in the last election.

"We threw him out of Scottish politics," Mr Maxton said, "and we want to keep him out of English politics."

While the Liberals and Labour are pinning their hopes on winning this traditional Conservative seat on a low turnout, all three main parties say they are quietly confident.

Mr Taylor says he is much more confident than he was last week and that the number of doubters in the constituency has been reduced, although he admits to being worried that people who voted Tory for the first time at the last general election may defect this time because "they have found after some months that the grass is not greener and the skies are not bluer".

Mr Colin George, the Labour candidate, says that a canvass of half the constituency has found half the electorate committed to voting for him.

Both the Labour and Conservative agents say that they can find no evidence of a significant Liberal vote. Indeed it is something that worries Labour since they had hoped for Conservative defections to the Liberals to let them in.

Not surprisingly, Mr David Evans, the Liberal candidate, hotly disputes these findings. He says Liberals are running a close second in the constituency in areas of private housing and to Labour on council estates. Mr Alton, the Liberal campaign manager, predicts that the Liberal vote will increase from 13 to 38 per cent.

Mr Evans also says that the contest was so close between the three major parties that no bookmakers in Southend were prepared to take bets on it. In this town of slot machines and amusement arcades it would be strange if no one was not putting their money on the Tories to win, Labour to come second and the Liberals to come third.

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Campaign to curb use of treasure hunt detectors

Kenneth Gosling

A campaign to call the public's attention to the indiscriminate use of metal detectors will be launched in London today.

The Council for British Archaeology, supported by the Museum of London, is one of the organisers of STOP (Stop Taking Past), which is concerned with treasure hunting.

The detector information group yesterday denied that it was a campaign to curb the use of metal detectors. They said the campaign was a direct attack on the half-million treasure hunters.

The group also claimed yesterday that the Museums Association had advised museum curators to shun people bringing in finds which might have been obtained illegally.

The association said that referred to an instruction given to the staff of St Albans Museum to refuse service to treasure hunters suspected of breaking the law.

It would be undesirable, the association said, to drive information underground. "But we are concerned," it added, "about the activities of people who pick up material on sites at night, ask museums to identify objects, and then sell them to dealers."

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House of Keys family record

Mrs Clare Christian, aged 34, took her seat in the House of Keys, Isle of Man, yesterday and was officially welcomed by Sir Charles Kerruish, the Speaker, who is her father.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVES Urban Development Corporations

London Docklands Merseyside Docklands

The Government intends to set up Urban Development Corporations in London and Merseyside. Legislation to provide for this is before Parliament. Applications are invited for the two new posts of Chief Executive to each Corporation. These are to be filled on a "shadow" basis in the early summer and it is expected that the two Corporations will be set up on a statutory basis about six months later.

The task of each Corporation will be to spearhead the regeneration of the designated area of docklands. The Chief Executive will be a member of the Board of his or her Corporation. He or she will need to work closely with local authorities and other public bodies, and also with industrial and commercial interests in the field of development. Relevant experience at a high level will be required.

Salary commensurate with responsibilities, and in line with top public sector pay. The post will be pensionable.

Further particulars may be obtained from Timothy Hornsby, Head of Inner Cities Division, Room P1/070, Department of the Environment, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3EB. Applications accompanied by a full curriculum vitae should be sent to him by 3rd April, 1980.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REQUIRES RESEARCHER

For the Latin American department to investigate human rights situations and individual cases, Amnesty International requires a researcher. The researcher will be responsible for preparing prisoner biographies, background reports, briefing missions and formulating policy. Principal requirements: specialist knowledge of the history and politics of Latin America; fluency in English and Spanish; sound and objective political judgement; fluent English and Spanish; essential. Salary: £8,400-£12,000 per annum (including the Pension Fund contribution) and an application form contact the Personnel Office, Amnesty International, c/o 0188 7788, ext 238, or write to the Personnel Dept, International Secretariat, 10 Southwark Street, London WC2R 2TH. Completed application forms to be returned by 17th April, 1980.

GENERAL VACANCIES

YOUNG DYNAMIC EXPORT COMPANY

Require a qualified Accountant. The successful applicant will have 2 or 3 years relevant post qualification experience and should be capable of assuming all aspects of responsibility.

WEST EUROPE

Euro-Tories ready to discuss vote reform

From David Wood
Strasbourg, March 11

British Conservative MEPs are prepared to discuss a compromise between the first-past-the-post system and an element of proportional representation for the next direct elections to the European Parliament in 1984. Mr James Scott-Hopkins, European Democrat leader, said here.

He has in mind the proportional representation systems used in West Germany and Australia, although he added that the group had no commitment beyond discussion. The Rome treaty requires the European Parliament to propose a uniform system of election throughout the EEC, but the decision will lie with the Council of Ministers under the unanimity rule, with ratification by national parliaments.

Replying to questions from French journalists, Mr Scott-Hopkins said that the Conservative Party would accept a proportionate representation system any more than it would for the 1979 election, except in Northern Ireland. Both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Callaghan, leader of the Opposition, have declared against adopting proportional representation in the past, and Mr Scott-Hopkins believes the system's supporters are still an all-party minority in the Commons.

On the question of passports, although the British Foreign Office has made a mock-up of a European Community passport, with a burgundy cover, the European Parliament will hear tomorrow that the proposal has been overtaken by computer technology.

The Parliament is expected to produce a majority for a Community passport now that the British and French have agreed to the introduction of a new passport. But already the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAA) has devised a plastic card, rather like a credit card, which contains all the information appearing in the current passport. The Authority wants to introduce its card in the next month or two.

The ICAA claims that the card could be inserted into a machine for checking and cut out the delays of manual passport control. Mr Tom Spencer, European Democrat MEP for Derbyshire, will show the Parliament an example of the card when he speaks in tomorrow's debate.

The practical objection to the "credit card" passport is that it could not be used where visas are necessary and the political objection in Britain might be that it would be tantamount to a continental identity card. But within the time it would prove more convenient and quicker to check.

Parliamentary report, page 12



A sure sign of spring on the way in the village of Gottenheim, south-west Germany, where storks are nesting on the church tower.

Communal rioting in Belgium threatens coalition government

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 11

Belgium was still counting the cost today of one of its worst recent outbreaks of inter-communal rioting last Sunday in the small Fournons district in the eastern part of the country. Shots were fired, 20 people injured, houses ransacked and considerable damage was estimated at £100,000.

The Fournons is a tiny enclave inside the French-speaking province of Liège on Belgium's eastern frontier with Holland. Most of its 4,500 inhabitants speak Flemish, a Germanic Flemish patois, but it also contains an influential Walloon minority.

In the early 1960s, as part of a general realignment of the language boundary between Dutch-speaking Flanders and French-speaking Wallonia, the Fournons was transferred to the Flemish province of Limburg.

The move was stoutly resisted by the Walloons who still agitate for return to Liège. The Flemish are equally insistent that the Fournons must remain Flemish territory. What is otherwise a small and unremarkable rural community has thus become one of the touchstones of relations between Belgium's French and Dutch speakers.

M. André Cools, leader of the French-speaking wing of the Socialists, has questioned the impartiality of the Flemish police in Sunday's affair. Newspaper editors have also asked why the Government did not take preventive action, both groups of demonstrators.

The other main talking-point in Brussels today was the failed attempt yesterday evening to kidnap Mr Leo Tindemans, the former Prime Minister, while he was on his way to a speaking engagement at Affligem north-west of Brussels.

Two men, Jean Buts, born in Brussels, but resident in Düsseldorf, and Edmond Doux, of no fixed address, have been arrested in connection with the affair. Police say the men have confessed their intention to kidnap Mr Tindemans and to demand a £3m ransom.

to 500 French-speaking Walloons.

At the height of the rioting shots were fired from a Walloon-owned house, wounding two Flemish demonstrators. The owner claimed later to police that he had been afraid that his house was about to be sacked by the Flemish mob. Although no material damage was estimated at £100,000.

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OVERSEAS

Mr Reagan breaks Republicans' 'eleventh commandment' to criticize former President Ford

From David Cross
Miami, March 11

Mr Ronald Reagan and Mr George Bush, the leading Republican presidential candidates, have finished campaigning for today's three southern presidential primaries and have disappeared to other parts of the country to watch the outcome on television.

On the other side of the political fence, President Carter and Senator Edward Kennedy, for entirely different reasons, have not been seen in Florida, Georgia or Alabama during the final days of the campaign. If Senator Kennedy manages to secure more than a few of the 208 Democratic National Convention delegates at stake in the three states, he will be well satisfied.

Before the polls closed to-night, the pollsters and the pundits had already decided what the outcome on both the Democratic and Republican sides would be. Mr Carter, they said, would bounce Senator Kennedy even in Florida, which has more liberal voters than any other southern state.

Similarly they predicted that Mr Reagan would follow his impressive victory in South Carolina last Saturday with three more strong first place finishes.

The pollsters' only doubt was in Florida where he had concentrated his efforts on winning the vote of the moderate Republican belt in the central part of the state. This area supported former President Ford four years ago and played a major role in securing the Republican nomination then.

Before he left Florida yesterday, Mr Bush conceded, to like to win Florida. "But I am a realist," he told reporters. "I just want to do respectably."

Asked what he meant by the word "respectably," he responded with an acute eye for the reality of American presidential campaigning: "I guess I would define it as finishing so that you people would write up that I did well."

This was an acknowledgement of the fact that the momentum in his campaign which he built

by surprising the pundits in the first days of this year's election had come to a virtual halt since his overwhelming defeat by Mr Reagan in the New Hampshire primary.

Later Mr Bush travelled to Mobile, Alabama, for an election rally there. His presence in that state was not expected to have any influence whatsoever on the outcome of the Alabama Republican vote. His campaign aides have long conceded victories to Mr Reagan in both this state and Georgia.

For Mr Reagan, the former Governor of California, who also left Florida yesterday for some last minute campaigning in Atlanta, Georgia, as well as Alabama, the threat to his front runner status no longer comes from Mr Bush. He is concerned that former President Ford may soon challenge his supremacy in the Republican race.

When the former President first showed strong signs of becoming a candidate ten days ago, Mr Reagan said he would be delighted if his former rival hung up his golf clubs and joined the throng.

Yesterday, however, he said Ford's claim that it would be practically impossible for a right-wing Conservative like himself (Mr Reagan) to win the general election in November, did not believe that any Republican or Republican candidate should say that about any other candidate," he said.

This was strong stuff from a man who has sworn to respect what he calls the eleventh commandment: "Never criticize a fellow Republican."

In the past week, two of the leading contenders for the Republican nomination at this summer's national convention in Detroit have withdrawn their candidacies and in Florida, at least, no one was quite sure how their former supporters would now vote.

Theoretically, most of those people who would have backed Joe Conely, the former Governor of Texas, should have transferred their allegiance to Mr Reagan on the right wing voters there, his explanation that the whole affair was an unfortunate but honest mistake fell on deaf ears.

By contrast, Mr Bush might have been expected to pick up some votes from former supporters of Senator Howard Baker, the Republican leader of the Upper House, whose views are considered to be moderate.

The former CIA director, however, might have lost some votes to Mr John Anderson, the only other remaining major Republican candidate, whose radical policies so impressed voters in Massachusetts and Vermont.

Mr Anderson did not campaign personally in any of the southern states at stake today but he did win television and newspaper exposure after his near victories in New England.

For Senator Kennedy, who never really expected to fare well in conservative southern states like Alabama and Georgia, only Florida offered a faint prospect of a reasonable number of votes today.

He was hoping that President Carter's mishandling of the Middle East crisis in the United Nations Security Council would bring out a Jewish protest vote. Passions are still running high in the Jewish community throughout the country about the Administration's decision to condemn the Israeli Government's settlements policy and to call into doubt the future status of Jerusalem.

Indeed there were scuffles inside President Carter's campaign headquarters in Miami yesterday between a handful of members of the Jewish Defence League and campaign workers. The fighting started when the demonstrators chanted "Carter must go" invaded the building and threw punches were exchanged before police arrived.

In Washington yesterday, Senator Kennedy told a Jewish audience that the Administration's vote in New York was an "appalling betrayal of Israel," which was "a completely isolated mistake."

When Mr Robert Strauss, Mr Carter's overall campaign manager, went to New York yesterday to try to pacify Jewish voters there, his explanation that the whole affair was an unfortunate but honest mistake fell on deaf ears.

The article with its call for vigilance is significant in the timing. The Jewish community is tightening up internal control and looking down on dissidents' parades for the Olympics at the same time it is striving to ensure that no doubt face internally over the intervention in Afghanistan. The Russians have a vigorous propaganda offensive to combat the spread influence of radio broadcasts, and a trying to appeal to Soviet patriotism by implying Western criticism of the threat of dissidents to overthrow the Soviet Government.

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Significantly, General I also dwelt on the weaknesses of the Soviet and said Western intel agents were trying to get information on this. The especially interested economies of Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Soviet Far East and the extreme north, are areas where the R have poured in large investments in recent years.

The Russians are aware that the sluggish economy with its falling productivity poses the greatest challenge to the leadership. It is potentially the most cause of popular discontent.

Mr Nkomo to run the police

Continued from page 1

country's 5,500 white farmers who Mr Mugabe has said he wants to see remain in Rhodesia.

Mr Smith said tonight he would remain a member of the Rhodesian Front Party, headed by Mr Ian Smith, but that he would not represent the party's interests in the Cabinet.

As widely expected, Mr Mugabe will take on the Defence portfolio as well as being Prime Minister. Mr Nkomo will have responsibility for the British South Africa Police and the predominantly white paramilitary police reservists.

Members of the Cabinet are: Defence: R. G. Mugabe; Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Home Affairs: J. N. Nkomo; Minister of Manpower, Planning and Development: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Lands, Rehabilitation and Resettlement: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs: Mr Nkomo; Minister of the Public Service: R. G. Mugabe; Minister of Labour and Social Welfare: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Transport and Power: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Local Government and Housing: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Lands, Rehabilitation and Resettlement: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Commerce and Industry: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Agriculture: D. R. Nkomo; Minister of Information and Tourism: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Natural Resources and Development: J. W. M. M. Nkomo; Minister of Education and Culture: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Health: H. S. M. Nkomo; Minister of Public Works: C. M. Nkomo; Minister of Posts and Telecommunications: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Mines: Mr Nkomo; Minister of Youth, Services and Recreation: Mr Nkomo; Minister of the Environment: Mr Nkomo; Minister of the Environment: Mr Nkomo.

"Sanctions spy" freed: Mr Kenneth McIntosh, the Scottish "sanctions spy", was released today after serving six years of a 17-year sentence on the order of Lord Soames and flew home to Britain, Dan van der Vat writes from Salisbury.

Leading article, page 15

Israel may defy UN by seizing more land

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, March 11

In defiance of the recent United Nations resolution calling for the dismantling of all Jewish settlements on occupied territory, the Israeli Government has revived a controversial building plan which would involve seizing some 5,000 acres of land in occupied East Jerusalem.

It is understood that the plan has been put forward by Mr David Levy, the Housing Minister, and one of the main supporters of an expansionist settlement programme. It has now been referred for detailed examination by a Cabinet committee consisting of Mr Levy, Mr Yigal Hurwitz, the Finance Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Zamir, the Attorney General.

The purpose of the plan is to extend the ring of modern Jewish suburbs which have been systematically erected in a protective ring around the outskirts of east Jerusalem since the area was annexed during the 1967 war. The United Nations Security Council, which has repeatedly condemned the plan, has specifically called for the dismantling of these suburbs which house at least 60,000 Jews.

It was the failure of the Security Council to draw a distinction between these neighbourhoods and the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which particularly angered the Israeli authorities. Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, described the demand to abandon them as "a barbaric fantasy".

If the new building programme is approved, it is certain to create a new wave of international protest, as most of the land to be expropriated is owned by Arabs. It would be

one of the biggest construction programmes undertaken in east Jerusalem in recent years, and provide housing for about 10,000 Jewish families.

According to Mr Levy and his supporters, the projected housing estates would end the present isolation of Neve Yaakov, the most recent Jewish neighbourhood in east Jerusalem, which is cut off physically from the rest of the city by the Israeli barrier which the Israelis have built up in the area over the past 13 years.

As originally drawn up by the last Labour Government, the new development would have effectively sealed off the largest gap in the Israeli perimeter on Jerusalem's periphery, thus making it more difficult for the city to be redivided in any future political settlement.

It was opposed by the Mayor, Mr Teddy Kolek, who claimed that the expropriation would unduly exacerbate tensions between Jews and Arabs.

In proposing the plan formally to the last Cabinet session, Mr Levy argued that the area in question was being filled by illegal Arab building, which was forming a dangerous wedge between Neve Yaakov and the rest of the city. These suburbs contain a large number of imposing concrete tower blocks which have been widely criticized for spoiling Jerusalem's historic skyline.

As well as advocating the massive new development in east Jerusalem, Mr Levy is also demanding the quick resettlement of Jews in the centre of Hebron, the second largest Arab town on the occupied West Bank. Experts could do him among Jewish voters in today's presidential primary in Florida, and later ones in Illinois and New York.

Mr Carter's retraction specifically concerned the references in the resolution to Jerusalem. Jewish leaders point out, however, that there is much else in the resolution repugnant to them, in particular the description of some of the occupied territories as "Palestinian".

Thursday

KGB chief alerts Russians to 'spy threat'

From Michael Bygon
Moscow, March 11

The deputy head of the Soviet security police is given a warning that the subversion of the Soviet Union is a real and present danger. He is stepping up his efforts to recruit spies and to obtain details of the country's economic weaknesses.

Writing in the influential ideological journal *Kommunist*, General Semyon Tsvigun, vice-president of the Committee for State Security (KGB), over 400 subversive organizations were operating against the Union, and the danger was increasing.

He claimed that the act of this colossal machine, based on concrete plans, and plans were to exploit a specific political situation—though he did not say which.

The main centres of spy were agents of intelligence, and in capitalising on the Soviet Union's various official missions. They were closely co-ordinated by the American Central Intelligence Agency, with joint operations and espionage operations, and additional cover for mutual protection and constant exchange of information received.

In recruiting agents, emphasis was on discrediting politically unstable or decadent persons, and on recruiting agents from the Soviet Union and also from abroad. General Tsvigun said.

"Radio, television, posters, messages, petitions, widely used for ideological subversion."

"Frantic anti-Sovietism as Solzhenitsyn, Buzytsky, Amalrik, and others, who in recent years have been active in the Soviet Union and also in the West, have been included in the list of the rabid ideological saboteurs."

The main aim of the other Western intel services, he said, was to undermine the unity of communist countries, to undermine the peoples advancing the socialist road. The Westerners sought to dam Soviet Union and its international prestige.

The article with its call for vigilance is significant in the timing. The Jewish community is tightening up internal control and looking down on dissidents' parades for the Olympics at the same time it is striving to ensure that no doubt face internally over the intervention in Afghanistan. The Russians have a vigorous propaganda offensive to combat the spread influence of radio broadcasts, and a trying to appeal to Soviet patriotism by implying Western criticism of the threat of dissidents to overthrow the Soviet Government.

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Thursday

French impressed by Mrs Thatcher's powers

More than what she said, it was the force of her personality behind the words that impressed French viewers about Mrs Thatcher's appearance yesterday on the *Cards on the Table* television programme. It was a personality that came through even the somewhat shortcomings of the simultaneous translation.

To a country still dominated by the Latin variety of male chauvinism which, as a former woman minister once confessed, holds that a woman cannot be both feminine and have a political instinct, the British Prime Minister proved convincingly that it was possible to combine both.

There were moments during the broadcast when M Alain Delamare and M Jean-Pierre Elkabbash, both old hands in the art of getting politicians to bare their souls involuntarily by putting to them seemingly artless questions, seemed cast in the role of a couple of naughty schoolboys reproved by their teacher with a raising of the eyebrows for failing to

grasp the obvious. What is more, they did not seem to mind, and played the game willingly. M Elkabbash is quoted in *Le Figaro* as saying that of those 90 minutes at No 10 Downing Street he kept the memory of a woman "full of charm and seduction whose radiating presence conceals a great authority and a deep desire to infuse some warmth into the climate of Franco-British relations."

There is definitely a Thatcher phenomenon in this country, which works its magic on French men and women from President Giscard d'Estaing downwards. They feel about her what is said to have been remarked once about Mme Simone Veil, now President of the European Parliament, that she is the only man in the Cabinet.

They do not like her policy towards the Community, but they admire the determination with which she defends British interests and the courage with which she grapples with the British economic "disease".

They appreciate that the medicine which M Raymond Barre, their own Prime Minister, is compelling them to swallow is an emollient compared to the emetic she is administering to her countrymen. M Barre has occasionally confessed privately with some regret that the psychology of his countrymen does not make it possible to use the same methods to cut government spending, increase productivity and reduce economic controls.

He fully appreciates that Mrs Thatcher's attitude towards the Community is essentially linked to the kind of cure remedy she is determined to apply at home, and that if he were the British Prime Minister he would do the same thing, if not in the same way.

Mrs Thatcher's great art, an observer in the corridors of power, confided to me today, is one of apparently artless simplification.

Le Monde writes: "We, in front of our boxes, we approved. Here was the voice of common sense, of the obvious; and one

understood, as one heard her speak later on with extreme moderation of the need for the Palestinian Liberation Organization to recognize the right of the state of Israel to exist and for the Soviet troops to withdraw from a country occupied by force, how she could at the time appeal to an electorate, infinitely more recalcitrant today and grumbling against the cry of unemployment and of prices."

The paper described her as a "velvet woman"—with the steel, however, not far beneath the surface.

Le Quotidien de Paris waxed more lyrical and called her "not the Iron Lady, for that metal is too vile, too obscure, but a woman of uranium, with peculiar irradiations."

Compared to her, how leaders appear most of our leaders, opaque masses of flesh, austere fortresses without windows, save for the loopholes of deceit and the skylights of hidden pride. Power corrupts a man but liberates a woman and reveals her for what she is."

Lawyer's suspension angers French legal profession

From Ian Murray
Paris, March 11

Fifty lawyers went to the Ministry of Justice today to protest over the summary suspension of a defence lawyer during the trial of anti-nuclear protesters at Quimper, in Brittany, last week.

M Yann Choucq, the defence lawyer, has been suspended from appearing in any court until next Monday by the tribunal at Quimper, "for serious indiscipline" and for attacking the integrity of the tribunal and through it the public prosecutor.

M Choucq has been seeking bail for his clients, who had been arrested after disturbances which have become a daily occurrence at the public inquiry into a nuclear power station plan near Plogoff in Finistère. The lawyer suggested that the only reason one defendant had been released and not the

others was that he was related to a member of the bench.

The tribunal immediately suspended M Choucq, so unleashing a storm of protest from militant members of the legal profession all over France. Yesterday, lawyers in Nantes refused to appear before the courts, and they have said they will continue their protest until next Monday. Lawyers in Strasbourg have been called to observe a similar strike tomorrow.

Demonstrations have been organized in Paris and at other courts throughout France by lawyers, mostly members of the left-wing Syndicat des Avocats. Meanwhile, the inquiry at Plogoff has been drawing to its close. The five official inquiry commissioners arrived there today to tour the sites which would be affected if permission is granted to build the 1,200 megawatt nuclear station on the granite shore outside the town.

Italian servicemen vote for own representatives

From John Earle
Rome, March 11

Italian soldiers, sailors and airmen began voting today for councils to represent them in the structure of the Armed Forces.

The councils—a military innovation in Italy—will be more than forums for voicing grievances or complaints, but will not go so far as having a trade union role. They will be concerned with such matters as rations, accommodation, hygiene and the like, and will have a cultural and recreational role.

Voting procedures are complicated. Today and tomorrow all ranks, in a kind of primary, will vote for candidates to stand in elections for the councils, known as "Cobar" or basic representative councils.

The Cobar will in turn elect intermediate-level councils, which will then designate a central representative council for the Armed Forces.

The basic councils are expected to have about 6,000 members, both regulars and conscripts.

Included in this effort for greater democracy

VERSEAS

UN rights commission
adopts compromise
plan on Dr Sakharov

By Alan McGregor

March 11

Western resolution in the United Nations Human Rights Commission expressing concern at measures against Dr Sakharov, the Russian physicist and nuclear scientist, was abandoned today in favour of a "compromise proposal" adopted without a vote. It says consideration of the issue will be taken up as a priority at next year's session.

In assessing Western strategy keeping Soviet treatment of Sakharov before the commission, Mr Jerome Shestak, United States delegate, told news conference it had "lacked its objective".

or the first time, the case of an individual Soviet dissident was on the agenda as a joint item. This "blockading" in the rule of law, he believed, that the science of many countries aroused so they felt some had to be done. It demonstrated "a symbolic importance" of Sakharov to the rest of human rights.

described as nonsensical, the commission's decision, said Luis Chavez Godoy, Peruvian delegate, of a "leak-off between the two superpowers".

his was a reference to a draft resolution, alleging human rights violations in Northern Ireland and asking for information, having withdrawn as a result of consultations in which the delegates of Senegal and Iraq acted as go-betweens. "This type of resolution," the Peruvian said, "endangering the commission's efforts".

In Valerian Zorin, the Soviet delegate, said deferring the issue (of Sakharov) was "a move, for it means the commission is rid of consideration of a completely pointless issue". He contended "this question" was be-

yond the commission's competence.

In addressing the commission after the adoption of the compromise proposal by Senegal and Iraq, Mr Shestak said their decision to continue to accord a priority to the Sakharov case "would be heard by people such as Yuri Orlov, Mykola Rudenko, Leyko Lukin, Vladimir Slepak, Anatole Shcharansky, Antonas Terleckas, Robert Nazaryn, Viktoras Perkus, and the many other human rights spokesmen the Soviet Union seeks to repress."

He added: "We shall watch carefully what conclusions the Soviet Union draws from the discussions in this commission and what transpires."

The resolution on Dr Sakharov, tabled yesterday by Senegal, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, the British delegate, was a sequel to an earlier Western attempt on February 5, the day after the session opened, to have the commission intervene immediately in the Sakharov case by sending a telegram to Moscow asking for details to "assist consideration of this matter during the present session."

The fact that the British resolution, co-sponsored by Costa Rica, West Germany, Netherlands, Panama and Portugal, was not pressed to the vote reflected a feeling on the part of some Western delegates that to have the Sakharov case before the commission was preferable to another vote directly against the Soviet Union—after the commission's condemnation of the Russian intervention in Afghanistan.

During the four days of discussion on Dr Sakharov, the United States and British delegates raised a series of allegations of discrimination on religious and racial grounds in the Soviet Union in violation of human rights covenants ratified by the Soviet Government.

Soviet drive
to ease
troops' fear
of Afghans

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, March 11

The Soviet Army newspaper today reassured the thousands of Soviet soldiers expecting to be sent to Afghanistan that villagers and tribesmen there are giving the Soviet troops a warm welcome and are grateful for their help.

A report in Red Star said Soviet soldiers in the village of Hairhana, near Kabul, were providing medical aid, giving presents to school children, planting trees and helping peasants repair their farm implements.

The villagers had expressed profound thanks to the local Soviet commanders and were convinced the troops had come to Afghanistan with good intentions, the report said.

The dispatch is one of the first to describe day-to-day relations between the Soviet soldiers in Afghanistan and the local population. It comes at a time when many ordinary Soviet families have been alarmed by reports heard on Western radio broadcasts of attacks on the Russians and Afghan resentment at their presence.

The report from Kabul was accompanied by two photographs showing a group of smiling villagers, one with his arm round a Soviet soldier from central Asia, and an old peasant in traditional dress sitting on the ground and chatting with the Soviet crew.

The Red Star report said the Russians had set up a medical tent in Hairhana where the local population was treated. The soldiers had helped the villagers redecorate the school and had given a concert for the children. They were preparing to help farmers plant trees.

A bearded elder called Mahmud was quoted as saying that he had worked for his living all



A photograph issued by Tass which, it claims, shows "the attitude of all honest Afghans to Soviet soldiers is that of sincere hospitality and profound gratitude".

his life and knew that "a friend in need is a friend indeed". An agronomist said he had visited a number of villages and cooperatives and seen how Soviet assistance was winning over the population and giving them confidence in the future.

Afghan party workers told the paper's correspondent that counter-revolutionaries were denouncing the Soviet presence in Afghanistan and were threatening reprisals against anyone who associated with the Russians. But these efforts "to play on the backwardness and immaturity of a part of the population" were doomed to failure, the correspondent was told.

"Even those who first naively believed the lies are becoming more and more con-

vinced that the Soviet people came with good intentions," he said.

The paper said the attitude of all honest Afghans to the Soviet soldiers was one of "sincere hospitality and profound gratitude". The report said the villagers rejected all "vicious nonsense about Soviet soldiers and officers".

In recent weeks the Soviet press has begun to suggest that the Russians will have to stay in Afghanistan a long time. At the same time it has acknowledged that the Muslim insurgents are putting up a tough fight and it gave a fairly graphic account of the uprising in Kabul two weeks ago.

All this has alarmed the Russians, and there are widespread rumours about the number of

coffins coming back from Afghanistan. Evidently the press has now decided it is time to paint a rather more reassuring picture.

Today Pravda said the situation was steadily returning to normal. The Afghan Government and party had made appeals to workers and religious leaders to create an atmosphere of confidence and trust, the paper said, and was doing everything possible to encourage the return home of those who had left the country because they had "failed to understand the meaning of the events".

Pravda said the Kabul Government had held successful negotiations with representatives of some tribes who had been misled and had resisted the

revolutionary power. As a result, Pravda added cautiously, "part of them decided to lay down their arms".

Meanwhile, the Afghan Government has denied reports that President Karmal had agreed to the calling of an international conference to set up a police force to guard the Afghan border with Pakistan as a first step towards a Soviet troop withdrawal.

Calling the suggestion "the latest Western propaganda forgery", Tass quoted an official spokesman as saying that only the people of Afghanistan and their lawful government could determine their destiny. They would not allow anyone else to settle issues falling within the competence of the leadership of the country.

Miss Hearst
claims
lawyer let
her down

From Ivor Davis

Los Angeles

March 11

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco today is considering a request from the lawyer of Miss Patricia Hearst, who wants the judges to quash her conviction for armed bank robbery. The newspaper heiress claims that the celebrated defence lawyer, Mr F. Lee Bailey, rushed the case to trial because he planned to write a book about it.

Miss Hearst, aged 25, did not appear in court on Monday. She was convicted of the robbery in 1977 and served less than two years in prison before President Carter commuted her sentence, allowing her to go free.

Her lawyer, Mr George Martinez of San Francisco, argued today that Mr Bailey's apparent "conflict of interest" denied his client the right to effective counsel.

Much of his argument centred on a book contract that Mr Bailey was said to have signed during the trial. He claimed that the lawyer may have consciously or unconsciously decided against delaying the trial or seeking its move elsewhere in order to profit from quick publication. (Mr Bailey has not yet published a book.)

Miss Hearst, now married and living in the suburbs of San Francisco, contends that her conviction should be set aside on any of three grounds: Prejudicial pre-trial publicity, illegal recordings of her statements, and the denial of effective assistance of counsel.

Arguing against her plea, Mr Sanford Svettov, a United States assistant attorney, claimed that Miss Hearst was just looking "for someone to blame" for her conviction. "They can't blame it on the judge, they can't blame it on the jury," he said. "The defendant can't bring it on herself to admit guilt so they blame it on defence counsel. In fact, there was extremely strong evidence of her guilt."

The Patricia Hearst story began in February, 1974, when she was kidnapped from her flat in Berkeley by terrorists of the Symbionese Liberation Army. She later joined her captors and when she was arrested some 14 months later she was charged with bank robbery and other crimes. She was found guilty and given a seven-year prison sentence.

Peking leaders
concerned over
religious revival

Peking, March 11.—The Chinese leadership is concerned about a religious revival, especially among young people, at a time when two Roman Catholic cardinals are visiting the country.

The newspaper China Youth said today that the more relaxed line taken on religion in China during the past year was not to be seen as in any way encouraging the development of religion.

The two Roman Catholic prelates visiting China are Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the French episcopal conference, and Cardinal Franz König, Archbishop of Vienna and president of the Vatican secretariat for non-believers. They are spending about two weeks in China at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with foreign countries.—Agence France-Presse, Reuters.

Ir Carter changes mind
on postponing salt 2

By Patrick Brogan

Washington, March 11

President Carter has reversed his decision to abandon the 2 treaty this year, and will ask Democratic leaders in Senate to submit it for ratification, it was official by Mr Carter and President Brezhnev Vienna last summer and gives the assent of two-thirds the Senate for ratification.

There were grave doubts last whether Mr Carter could get the 67 votes he needed.

came the invasion of Cambodia, and the President decided on January 3 to request Senate "to delay consideration of the Salt 2 treaty".

the letter he sent to Mr Robert Byrd, the

majority leader. Mr Carter wrote that the purpose of the request was not to withdraw the treaty, which he said remained "in the national security interest of the United States and of the entire world", but to "allow the Senate to consider the treaty in the light of the current situation and to assess Soviet actions and intentions."

That reassessment has now presumably been completed, and the first flush of disapproval of the Soviet invasion has subsided. The treaty's changes in the Senate cannot now be tested very highly, but it would seem probable as it seemed last year that it will do better this year than it might next year, after the presidential election.

Moscow denies violating
Pakistan's air space

From Richard Wigg

Islamabad, March 11

The Soviet Union has denied that one of its Air Force aircraft violated Pakistan's air space 11 days ago. It has protested at what it called "an unprovoked attack" by two Pakistan Air Force fighters when the Soviet aircraft was inside Afghanistan's air space.

According to Pakistan, which protested to Moscow immediately after the incident took place, the Soviet AN26 was intercepted by the Pakistan fighters on March 1 while it was flying over Chitral, in the northernmost tip of the country. After warning shots it was escorted back towards Afghanistan and left when it was within five miles of Afghan territory.

Pakistani officials then re-

ported that President Zia had been informed of the incursion and had given instruction that the Soviet aircraft must not be harmed.

This was the first reported occasion when a Soviet aircraft had penetrated Pakistan air space, according to Islamabad, since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan at Christmas. However, the Pakistan authorities have claimed that more than 20 incursions into their air space were committed by Afghanistan's Air Force in a 28 day period since Christmas.

The Soviet Embassy said here today that two Pakistan fighters had fired at the AN26 while it was operating over an Afghan locality near Jalalabad. It accused the pilots of attempting by gestures and firing to force the Soviet aircraft to proceed towards Pakistan.

EEC-Asean blow to the Kremlin

From M. G. G. Pillai

Kuala Lumpur, March 11

The European Community and the Association of South-east Asian Nations (Asean) have agreed to a joint statement among themselves here last week to jointly condemn the Soviet Union for sending troops into Afghanistan and for stage managing the invasion of Kampuchea by Vietnam last year.

This was evident in the careful wording of the statement and informed sources conceded that the bargaining at times was tough.

There were members within each group opposed to such a statement, but the end result was not only that but also blamed the Soviet Union for having expansionist intentions in Asia. Asean, however, was careful to insist that its political stands, which technically were informal sessions of the foreign ministers, it intended to remain a social, cultural and economic block.

The statement dealt another political blow to the Soviet Union following the stinging rebuke it got from the United Nations General Assembly and others including Third World countries, for its invasion of Afghanistan.

The EEC position on the issues was hammered out at the meeting of its foreign ministers in Rome last month. As for the Asean nations, all except Singapore have been careful not to mention Vietnam

as the aggressors while taking the Soviet Union to task for its moves in Afghanistan.

But the move itself, according to EEC sources at the conference, arose from fears of action against Yugoslavia after the death of President Tito.

This possibility weighed heavily in our minds when the foreign ministers met in Rome last month," said one senior EEC diplomat. "We had to take a strong stand." He conceded that it had been difficult persuading some of the EEC countries, particularly France, to go along.

Similar reservations were held within Asean, particularly among officials in Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur. While there is general unanimity among the Asean countries—Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines—on opposing aggression in Kampuchea, the position is generally muted by a marked reluctance of all but Singapore to be highly critical of Vietnam's actions.

Their resolutions until now have been couched in general terms, calling merely for the expulsion of all foreign forces from Kampuchea.

Several EEC foreign ministers privately conceded that the political statement, rather than the economic cooperation pact which was the purpose of the meeting in Lumpur, was of sufficient import to be an "important benchmark" in the Community's future ties with Asean.

There is a feeling within Asean that this newly found

unanimity ought to be translated into concrete proof in the form of EEC assistance in getting the economies of the five Asean countries off the ground.

There is a growing feeling that there ought to be regular meetings of the 14 foreign ministers. Under the economic cooperation pact, there is provision for regular specialist committee meetings. But the foreign ministers themselves seem to feel that they ought to meet for wider agreement in such areas as Soviet expansionist tendencies.

"It is fortuitous that in the present meeting, there was already a ready-made issue that we could draw our attention to," noted one official.

While there are advantages in this, the cobwebs of suspicion in both groupings can only be removed slowly. One EEC foreign minister of the ground to his staff that the Community ought to have concentrated not on Asean, but on South America.

Indeed, the pact does not come anywhere near the privileges granted to the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries under the Lomé Convention. Another foreign minister pointedly said the pact itself did not amount to much.

Even among Asean foreign ministers, there were reservations that the pact did not give them all they wanted. However they see it as a beginning with more negotiations ahead of them before a meaningful pact is agreed to.

Leading article, page 15

ice shortage
in
Kampuchea

Bangkok, March 11

A spuchean government official has admitted that authorities are allowing people to go to the Thai border for food and to distribute enough rice.

Li Po, a provincial food health services director in Bangkok, said, however, that Kampuchea would be capable of overcoming its food crisis in next few months.

his was reported by Mr Danois, press officer of United Nations Children's Fund, who met Dr Li Po in Bangkok last week.

was the first time that a spuchean official had admitted that Kampuchea is going to the border for food and to distribute enough rice.

Li Po said that the Government of Battambang had given instructions that Kampuchean travellers to the border should not be searched and goods not be confiscated.

ence France-Presse.

Last year 26 embassies or consulates were
occupied, mainly by revolutionary groups

Hostage-taking a growing evil

By Caroline Moorehead

In Tehran, the American hostages have been held captive for 15 weeks. In Bogota, the siege of the Dominican Embassy is entering its third week. Neither looks ready for an early end. Meanwhile, the tactic of taking hostages is being used very widely, but it would seem probable as it seemed last year that it will do better this year than it might next year, after the presidential election.

In El Salvador alone, 455 people are being held prisoner by guerrilla groups.

Until the middle of 1972, kidnapping was a far more popular guerrilla tactic than what the police call "barbaric and heinous" incidents. Militants in Brazil, Guatemala, Uruguay and Argentina developed the practice of kidnapping prominent foreigners, both diplomats and businessmen, and exchanging them for ransom and political concessions. When security forces destroyed most of the guerrilla organizations in those countries, the scene of such operations moved to Mexico, Colombia and El Salvador. It is in those countries that the taking of hostages is on the increase.

Last year, 26 embassies or consulates around the world were occupied, mainly by revolutionary groups. Between Janu-

ary 11 and February 29 this year, 10 more diplomatic missions were taken over, three in El Salvador, two in Peru, and one each in Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia, Panama and Belgium.

Some signs have been peaceful and have lasted only a few hours. But the recent siege of the Spanish embassy in Guatemala ended in the death of 39 people when police stormed the building, and others such as that in Colombia, where the guerrillas are demanding \$22m and the release of 311 political prisoners, look set for a long stalemate.

Twelve ambassadors are still inside the besieged embassy in Bogota. In terms of high-ranking hostages, it is probably the most profitable haul since the national ministers of Saudi Arabia, Iran, Venezuela and Colombia were seized at an Opec meeting in Vienna in December, 1975.

The question about how to protect diplomats has concerned governments since Mr Charles Burke Elbrick, the United States Ambassador to Brazil, was kidnapped from his car in Rio de Janeiro in September, 1969. The responsibility for the safety of diplomats lies with the host country; treaties

have guaranteed, since the days of ancient Greece, the "inviolability and protection" of ambassadors.

Yet no one has defined exactly who is entitled to that protection, nor what the "due diligence" mentioned in international documents actually means. Most embassies appoint their own security staff. But their job is not, as the figures show, an easy one and most agree that diplomats would be really safe only if they lived and worked in special diplomatic compounds.

In July, 1977, the Rand Corporation published a report on the outcomes of international incidents involving the taking of hostages. It disclosed that between September, 1969, and June, 1975, a United States representative was taken hostage or kidnapped every three months. The average did not vary when, in March 1973, the Administration demonstrated its no-concessions policy by allowing two senior diplomats to die when the Black September Palestinian group took hostages in the Saudi Arabian embassy in Khartoum. The kidnappings continued.

The Royal College of Psychiatry in particular had for some years been in regular touch with the Moscow commission, had reported on individual cases to Soviet and international psychiatric organizations, and had kept up the pressure.

This was confirmed by Dr Peter Salisbury, who pointed out that the Royal College had been instrumental in persuading the World Psychiatric Association meeting in Honolulu in 1977 to set up a special review committee on the abuse of psychiatry and had been the first to submit cases for the committee to examine.

Despite fierce opposition from Soviet psychiatrists, who threatened to resign if the committee was set up, it had succeeded, after long delays, in holding its first meeting last month. No Soviet psychiatrists had yet resigned.

Psychiatric watchdogs face Russian pressure

Michael Scammell

March 11

As part of their efforts to force Moscow to discontinue its use for the Olympic Games, Soviet authorities have started a new campaign of assailing members of the so-called Working Commission to Investigate the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes.

ews of the campaign was in London yesterday by a member of the commission, Dr Alexander Voloshanov.

Dr Alexander Voloshanov, a Soviet psychiatrist, has just arrived in Britain after being given two weeks' leave from the Soviet Union as a result of his activities.

speaking at a press conference organized by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, Dr Voloshanov said he had been interested in the problem of psychiatric abuse while working in a Moscow clinic. A man had been transferred to his department who was described as a schizophrenic.

a closer investigation, however, it turned out that the man had been committed for protesting against his unfair

dismissal and for displaying placards about it in a Moscow square. Fortunately, Dr Voloshanov was able to get the man's case re-examined by a special commission and to have him released.

Having been alerted to the problem, Dr Voloshanov investigated further and in 1977 became an active member of the working commission. He volunteered to examine dissidents who had been committed, or feared an imminent commitment, to mental hospitals and in almost every case was able to pronounce them sane.

But his activities came to the notice of the hospital authorities and after a campaign of systematic harassment and humiliation, he was forced last year to resign from his post.

Dr Voloshanov said that in the last few weeks the pressure on members of the commission had increased. Mr Vyacheslav Bakhtin, a leading member of the commission, had been arrested and charged with circulating material defamatory to the Soviet Union.

The charges, which carry a sentence of up to 12 years' imprisonment and exile, are related to the commission's information Bulletin, whose 20 issues to date contain 600 pages of scrupulous documentation on psychiatric abuse.

Mr Alexander Podrabinek, author of Punitive Medicine, the most authoritative exposure of Soviet practice in this field, has twice been searched in north-east Siberia, where he is serving a five-year term of exile, and threatened with a new prison sentence.

Dr Leonard Ternovsky, a Moscow doctor, Mr Felix Serebrov and Mrs Irina Grivnina have all had their homes searched, and Mr Serebrov was jailed for 15 days on trumped-up charges. Dr Ternovsky has also been threateningly interviewed by Professor Petrov, the head of the First Moscow Medical Institute where he works, and has recently had his telephone disconnected.

Special tribute was paid by Dr Voloshanov to the support by British psychiatrists, whose active intervention with Moscow

colleagues, together with the publicity they generated, had been instrumental in saving some patients from drug treatment and in obtaining releases or changes of diagnosis for others.

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| Honolulu | 1400 | 1635 | |
| Houston | 1400 | 2135 | Connection via Los Angeles |
| Los Angeles | 1400 | 1735 | |
| Miami | 1115 | 1525 | |
| San Francisco | 1210 | 1310 | Wed-Fri-Sun |
| Washington | 1210 | 1735 | Mon-Tue-Thu-Sat |
| | 1100 | 1635 | Mon-Tue |
| | 1325 | 1645 | Wed-Thu-Fri-Sat-Sun |
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OVERSEAS

Opposition parties link up to put pressure on Gandhi Government

From Kuldip Nayyar
Delhi, March 11

The opposition parties in the Indian Parliament have joined hands to put pressure on Mrs Indira Gandhi's Government. Today was the first day of the budget session, and the entire Opposition in the Lok Sabha, (Lower House) walked out after Mr Bai Ram, the Speaker, rejected a series of adjournment motions over rising prices and the atrocities against Harijans (formerly Untouchables) in Pipla, a Bihar village.

In the Rajya Sabha (Upper House), the Opposition jointly protested against the "arbitrary dissolution" of nine state assemblies and demanded an early ratification of the President's proclamation on the subject.

At a little distance from Parliament House, the Opposition parties — the Communists, the Janata and the Lok Dal — held a demonstration in a protest against rising prices and the deteriorating law and order situation.

A huge procession marched through the streets of Delhi in a similar protest.

What is bothering the Government is not the spite of protesters but the fate of the President's proclamation on the dissolution of state assemblies. Under the constitution, it has to be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months. The assemblies were dissolved on February 16, therefore the ratification must be by April 17.

Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party has no problem in the Lok Sabha where it has a majority of two-thirds of the members. But the party does not have

enough strength in the Rajya Sabha with only 85 members in the present House of 233.

Nearly 75 members are due to retire on March 31 as one-third of the Rajya Sabha members retire every two years. If the Government places the proclamation before the House after March 31, the House will have 75 members less.

Of the 75 retiring members 35 are from the Gandhi's Congress Party. Hence, its strength will be reduced to 64. This does not give her a majority of the approximately 150 remaining members.

The Opposition accused the Government today of "buying or pressuring" members to increase its strength.

Mrs Gandhi's Congress Party tried to have the state assembly elections in the first week of April so as to get a new crop of Rajya Sabha members. Since the party swept the polls for the Lok Sabha, it expects to do likewise in the states.

However, Mr S. L. Shastri, Minister, said he cannot hold the assembly elections until May. He wants to have the electoral rolls revised.

What follows if the proclamation is rejected is not clear. Mr Shastri said that "dissolution is like death" and that the assemblies cannot be revived.

However, some experts argue that the dissolution is only a constitutional obligation is not fulfilled — an approval by both Houses within two months — the situation before the dissolution will prevail.

Prison term demanded for former Korean Army chief

From Jacqueline Reditt
Seoul, March 11

A 15-year prison sentence for General Chung Seung Hwa, the former Chief of Staff of the Army and martial law commander, was demanded by a military prosecutor today.

A preliminary court martial, General Chung, aged 51, was charged with helping Kim Jang Kyu, the former director of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency (KCIA) who shot President Park Chung Hee last October, in a plot to seize power after the assassination.

General Chung's defence is based on the claim that he was unaware that Mr Kim was the assassin. He said that his cooperation with Mr Kim after the event was in line with his duty as Army Chief of Staff to maintain national security.

He said that he did not realize that it was Mr Kim who had killed the President until the chief presidential secretary, who had witnessed the shooting, told him several hours later. He realized, too late, that he had been used by Mr Kim.

General Chung's lawyer argued that evidence of witnesses proved this. Reminding the court of General Chung's 32 years of active service in the army, he said he regretted that "the old soldier was not allowed to fade away honourably".

Asean objections to cheap air fare restrictions

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

Representatives of the five Asean nations—Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand—began talks in London today with the Department of Trade and Industry officials in an effort to obtain a relaxation in the rules covering air travel through their countries.

They are particularly concerned that under the terms of cheap Asean (advance purchase excursion) fares operated by British Airways and the Australian Airlines Qantas between London and Australia passengers are not allowed to break their flights for a short period on the way.

Travellers wishing to stop off must pay a much higher fare. The Asean delegates will contend in London, and in other European countries, that the loss of revenue from tourism is affecting their economies.

Tanzanian troops prepare to withdraw from Uganda

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 11

President Binaisa of Uganda completed his talks here today with President Moi of Kenya and later told reporters there had been no discussion on the provision of Kenyan troops for Uganda.

President Binaisa would not comment before he left Nairobi on the reported withdrawal of many of the Tanzanian troops who have been in Uganda since former President Idi Amin was ousted last year.

However, reports from Kampala say about half the Tanzanian force is being withdrawn over the next few days and many Tanzanian troops were seen today preparing to leave for home. President Nyerere of Tanzania recently threatened to withdraw his troops, which have helped maintain internal security, because he was exas-

Man held for freeing dolphins 'on jail fast'

Tokyo, March 11.—The wife of an American environmentalist arrested for helping hundreds of dolphins escape slaughter visited her husband today and said he was "fasting until he gets out of jail".

Fishermen on the western Japanese island of Iki, meanwhile, continued to process dead dolphins through a shredding machine and said they would kill any more that appeared in the waters.

Mrs Susan Cate of Hilo, Hawaii, a representative of the Greenpeace conservation group, visited her husband, Peter, in custody in Sasebo, 675 miles south-west of Tokyo, where he is being held pending investigation.

Prosecutors are investigating Mr Cate's alleged cutting of a rope on a fishing net at Iki that allowed hundreds of dolphins to escape. Charges have not yet been filed and Mr Cate can be kept in custody at least until March 18.—UPL

11 cholera deaths

Manila, March 11.—Eleven people have died of Cholera on Lombok Island in the Lesser Sunda archipelago east of Java during the past two months, according to official statistics.

Social Focus

Professor David Smith, a member of the Conservative Party's Baker committee, bases his article (Social Focus, February 20) advocating the break-up of the Inner London Education Authority, on the premise that "the onus is on those who argue for the retention of ILEA to produce incontrovertible evidence... that these unique statutory arrangements had to be made". Here he seems to be confusing two different aspects of the ILEA.

The present arrangements for its education, although not necessarily the worse for that, but far more important is the existence of a single education service for the whole inner London area. That has existed for 110 years, ever since publicly-provided education was introduced.

Successfully under the control of the School Board for London (1870-1903), the London County Council (1904-1964) and the ILEA (since 1965), a single authority has run education in virtually the same area. In consequence, schools, colleges, adult education, institutes and other institutions are located without regard to internal boundaries. I suggest that the onus is on those who would end this longstanding arrangement to show why it should be broken up.

In an inquiry 1977-78, Sir Frank Marshall (a Conservative local government man reporting to a Conservative GLC) found "this... would make little sense for the successful operation of the education service and would greatly add to financial problems facing London's local government". Sir Frank, now a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, said a few days ago: "The physical and financial difficulties in setting up new local education authorities in the inner London boroughs would be so severe that, in my submission, only a fool would attempt it."

He further stated that, if education were handed over to the boroughs, the increased cost "would be about 30 per cent more in all than currently the cost of education is with one single authority like ILEA".

The fact that the ILEA precepts on the boroughs rather than levying rates direct does not distinguish it from the 47 county councils which run education in most of England and Wales. The criticism that, as a single purpose authority, it may ignore the claims of other services is met by the one truly unique aspect of its constitution, namely that 13 of its members are delegated by the City and borough councils in London.

Alone among precepting authorities, it includes representatives of the rating authorities in its structure, alongside the 35 directly elected representatives of the inner London parliamentary constituencies. It is said that education does not figure prominently as an issue in GLC elections. This is not my experience in my East End constituency, but if it is true elsewhere it

must be because the candidates shrink from making it an issue. Certainly it does not spring from the relationship of the electorate in inner London to their representatives at County Hall.

Ever since 1904 the parliamentary constituencies of inner London have been electing members to County Hall (first to the LCC and then to the GLC/ILEA) with functions which have included the management of education.

Professor Smith bases his case partly on figures culled from the Baker report, some of which are shamefully inaccurate, some crudely selective. The worst example is the table purporting to compare examination subjects taken and passed in ILEA and in England and Wales on the basis of the number of subjects per 1,000 children in secondary schools.

This table includes two glaring statistical errors. The use of a base of 1,000 pupils (unknown in other comparisons of educational performance) is highly misleading because it conceals the different secondary school organizations of individual authorities. ILEA, with 11-18 schools, has a proportionately higher number of secondary pupils than authorities with 13-18 or 11-16 schools and tertiary colleges.

Baker and Smith further distort the picture by comparing ILEA figures (both for the specific 1,000-pupil base and for subjects taken and passed) with national figures for the whole of England and Wales, independent of direct grant schools and even overseas candidates.

A different picture of ILEA examination results is provided by the recently published 1977 figure of 12 per cent of all ILEA school-leavers obtaining at least one "A" in the Educational Supplement calculated that the break-up of Middlesex County Council in 1964 added 20 per cent to administrative costs.

For example, if ILEA were broken up, thousands of children would be moving from one authority to another, requiring payment of payments from their home authority and the attendant administrative and clerical organizations.

London suffered terribly in the late 1960s and early 1970s from teacher turnover and shortage. The present stability in schools is now bearing fruit in the improved performance of primary schools, which our regular system of evaluation has clearly revealed. This improvement is also now becoming evident in the lower years of secondary schools.

Does London education really need the trauma of a complete and costly upheaval, which most of the borough councils don't want, and which will divert everyone's attention towards the search for new jobs and new forms of organization and away from the vital job of educating inner London's children?

Sir Ashley Bramall
The author is Leader of the ILEA and GLC/ILEA member for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow.

Why the ILEA should not be broken up

(run by the borough councils) is more than double (at £82) than in outer London (£39) and two and a half times that in the country as a whole (£31).

Professor Smith and his colleagues on the Baker committee have completely failed to recognize how small the inner London boroughs will become in the next few years in terms of pupil numbers. The Baker report uses projections for 1986 based on the 1971 census, which are completely out of date.

At present only seven local education authorities in England and Wales (five outer London boroughs, Powys and the Isle of Wight) have fewer than 50,000 pupils and only two (Richmond and the Isle of Wight) have fewer than 20,000. The average is 86,000.

ILEA projections, which are updated annually by reference to the numbers actually in schools, show that by 1986 Kensington and Chelsea with 9,000 is likely to be half the size of the present smallest authority, Westminster is likely to have 12,500, Camden and Hammersmith/Fulham 15,000 each, Islington, Hackney and Tower Hamlets fewer than 20,000 each and all except Greenwich fewer than 30,000.

It is said that boroughs should combine, but if they do, what becomes of the argument that education policy should be determined in the elections for individual borough councils?

One thing is sure to grow if the boroughs take over, and that is the cost of administration. That was a common feature of both the London reorganization of 1964 and the national reorganization of 1974. An authoritative estimate recently quoted in *The Times Educational Supplement* calculated that the break-up of Middlesex County Council in 1964 added 20 per cent to administrative costs.

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Dubious benefits of maintenance Bill

The Child Maintenance (Annual Up-rating) Bill, which seeks to index-link child maintenance payments, comes up for its third reading in the Commons on Friday. While its promoters claim it is designed to help one-parent families it is hotly opposed by the very organizations whose clients might be expected to benefit from it.

John Levin, a legal adviser for One Parent Families, says: "It's a real dog's dinner of a Bill. It's a mess." If passed it would mean that maintenance payments to children would be increased annually in line with inflation. But not all payments. Only those that were up to or below supplementary benefits level. The rest would remain untouched.

The main beneficiary, claim One Parent Families, would be the Department of Health and Social Security. About half of

one-parent families receive supplementary benefits and they will end up with no more than they would have done anyway.

The principle behind the Bill is highly dubious. Such maintenance payments are supposed to be fixed by the court on an individual basis and varied upwards or downwards according to circumstances. Just because prices or supplementary benefits levels go up, say One Parent Families, it doesn't mean a man's wage

Mrs Linda Chalker, whose department would have to administer the index linking, has given some mind-boggling figures of the increased pressure that would result on her staff and the courts if the Bill became law.

Moreover, the Law Commission has recently announced an inquiry into the

financial aspects of divorce, so piecemeal legislation now seems even more inappropriate.

A measure of the incompetence with which the Bill has been drafted can be gauged from the fact that affiliation orders refer only to illegitimate children and alimony is known only in Scottish law. It is a moot point whether the Bill has any application to children of divorced parents living in England, which was surely the intention of its formulators.

Ironically, the Bill is likely to be debated at length because this is the only way that opponents of Mr John Corrie's abortion legislation can make sure that they don't see the light of day.

Maggie Drummond

Hitting offenders where it really hurts

Both the May Committee and Parliament's Expenditure Committee have stressed the need for more non-custodial ways of dealing with offenders in order to lighten the load on prisons, but neither had any new ideas. The Expenditure Committee discusses expedients such as week-end detention which the Wootton Committee endorsed nearly a decade ago, and the stricter form of supervision order which the Younger Report proposed in 1974 (but which profers with little support with the probation service).

The May Report is equally devoid of new proposals, and a good deal less optimistic than the Expenditure Committee: "While we have not overlooked the possibility of creating fresh alternatives to imprisonment, we are very seriously and over-hopeful—sometimes merely fashionable—expectations of non-custodial disposals have persistently been used to defend the allocation of inadequate resources to the prison service...".

It is true that really new, non-custodial sentences are hard to devise. The only important innovation of the seventies was community service, for which Lady Wootton personally deserves most of the credit. It now operates in most parts of England and is even being taken up by the sceptical Scottish courts.

I am not overlooking the experiments of some probation departments with ideas such as day training centres or new careers (the use of ex-offenders to help recent offenders), but whether any of these will be adopted nationwide remains uncertain, and there are no obvious rivals at the moment to community service.

What needs to be pointed out is that those who were searching unsuccessfully for new ideas in the seventies were doing so in blinkers. They assumed that what they were looking for must be remedial in nature. It had to be reformatory (improving character) or rehabilitative (make it easier to go straight).

The possibility that it might be easier to find a new non-custodial deterrent was overlooked. It may even have been an example of a repressed memory. At least two new deterrents not involving incarceration had been introduced in the 1950s: attendance centres for teenage males and fixed penalties for illegal parking. Neither had been particularly successful, and in any case deterrence had become a dirty word by association with capital punishment.

But penologists are getting less prudish about it, and more scientific. The silly slogan "Deterrents don't work" has now

been replaced by "You can deter some people in some situations from doing some things by some penalties". The penalties need not necessarily be hanging, flogging, amputation, long prison terms, or other measures that do lasting damage.

Fines can be a harmless deterrent if their amounts are sensibly adjusted to the offender's means. (Fixed penalties are less effective not merely because of the difficulties of enforcing them but because the amounts are so low as to constitute nothing more than a stiff tax for the reasonably well off.)

Disqualification from driving, although officially a precautionary measure, is nowadays used as a deterrent; and there is research evidence that for drunken drivers it is an entirely ineffective. Towing away obstructive vehicles is another deterrent, but costly in terms of manpower.

Courts can confiscate cars, other vehicles or indeed any property used for the commission of crimes carrying at least two years in prison. Courts can also disqualify drivers in these circumstances. It is arguable that these measures should not be restricted to offences for which a car has been used.

The objection that it is unfair to interfere with a man's driving if it has nothing to do with his crime belongs to Mikado justice. By all means hesitate if disqualification would endanger his livelihood; but that is another matter.

Another deterrent is stigma, which many potential offenders are said to fear more than a sentence, especially if they have never been convicted. We stigmatize learner drivers with an L-plate; why not careless drivers with a C-plate, at least for a few months? As for other offences, local newspapers stigmatize offenders for shoplifting, drunken driving, violence, sexual offences; but do so selectively and therefore unfairly.

Public identification of offenders should be a deterrent. Courts could do this in the case of juveniles. I am not arguing that courts should always prohibit identification; but it would be better if they did not and the newspapers decided when this is in the public interest.

It may be argued that stigma causes not merely temporary discomfort but lasting harm. Certainly convictions can result in the loss of jobs, friends, even families; but when the stigma is usually the grapevine and not the newspapers that is the medium.

A few offences are so stigmatizing that the social effect lasts for years; and in such cases efforts should be made to limit

rather than promote stigma. At the other extreme the stigma of a motoring or drunkenness conviction is short-lived and probably beneficial.

By a large measure the tolerance of most groups in our society is such that it is possible even for newsworthy people to live down quite serious convictions.

A proposal which has been mooted from time to time over the past century is that petty offenders should be required to report to some central office while they worked their way through their sentence; for example on Saturday afternoons—a proposal that seemed especially suitable for football hooligans.

Scottish sheriffs used occasionally to make this a condition of deferred sentences. The Wootton Committee recommended it as "a mild and not necessarily ineffective deterrent" and suggested that the reporting centres should be police stations.

Unfortunately the police were unwilling to be used in this way, although offenders on bail and monitors who have to produce licences and other documents are often required to report to police stations. It is an idea which the present Government might well re-examine.

Finally, the practicability of "home detention orders" needs serious discussion. Such orders would prohibit offenders, for periods of weeks or even months, from leaving their homes except during specified hours of the day or in emergencies. The idea is not quite unheard of; a Californian judge has used it for one or two women offenders. As an alternative to imprisonment of parents of young families it has obvious advantages.

Enforcement would obviously be patchy; but so is the detection of disqualified drivers. No doubt it would be likened to "house arrest" in South Africa. But house arrest is open to criticism not because it is inhumane but because it is ordered by a minister instead of a court, for political reasons and for long periods.

I suspect that these suggestions will be objected either that they are unsuitable for some offenders' circumstances or that they will hurt some more than others. Yet the same can be said of every penalty in the law.

If non-custodial thinking is to make any progress it must make a lateral jump, and acknowledge that "treatment" is not the only or the most practicable aim.

Nigel Walker
The author is Wolfson Professor of Criminology at Cambridge University.

Judge's power when prisoner absconds

Regina v Shaw
Before Lord Justice Donaldson,
Mr Justice Kier Brown and Mr Justice Wood

A trial judge has no jurisdiction to dismiss counsel from a case or order him to remain if he is required by the exigencies of the case to leave.

The Court of Appeal, which was considering an appeal by an accused who absconded during his trial, said that the Bail Act, 1976, had led to a regrettable increase in the number of defendants who absconded, and called for urgent consideration of the resulting problem by the Bar Council and Law Society.

Their Lordships allowed an appeal by Elvis Edward Shaw, aged 20, of Rose Street, Cambridge, Crown Court (Judge Wild) on May 4, 1979, was convicted of robbery and, after arrest on a bench warrant, sentenced on May 8 to three years' imprisonment. His conviction was quashed.

Mr John Farmer was the appellant's counsel, Mr Michael McMillan for the Crown.

MR JUSTICE KILNER BROWN, in a reserved judgment, said that the appellant was present in the early stages of his trial. Counsel's instructions were that the appellant would give evidence and that witness statements were available.

When the appellant went absent the judge investigated and concluded that it was voluntary. He exercised his discretion properly and rejected an application to discharge the jury and order a new trial on a bench warrant.

The judge then continued the trial in the absence of the appellant, and the judge's decision was upheld. The judge's decision was upheld. The judge's decision was upheld.

The sudden disappearance of the accused, for whom a bench warrant was issued, was a serious matter. The judge's decision was upheld.

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drawn from the case, the judge requested counsel to leave. Counsel had an absolute right to refuse to do so, and the judge's instructions were not to be followed.

Clearly the ruling of the Court of Appeal was a landmark decision. The judge's decision was upheld.

A trial judge should not order counsel to leave a case. The judge's decision was upheld.

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PARLIAMENT, March 11, 1980.

Decision to site Cruise missiles in Britain defended by minister

House of Commons
There was an armed build-up going on on both sides, Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, said when he defended the decision to site 150 Cruise missiles in the United Kingdom.

Earlier Mr Robert Cray (Kelley, Lab) had urged the cancellation of the decision and to "cancel this foolish project".
Mr Cray said: Both sides are armed to the teeth and spending massive chunks of expenditure on armaments. It is foolish to install further Cruise missiles in this country, over which we have no control, at a cost of £10m when we are cutting back on the social services, education, health and other areas.
Mr Pym (Cambridgehire, C)—It is the view of NATO, which is strongly supported, that this modernisation programme is necessary. There is an armed build-up going on on both sides which is wholly to be regretted. It is the purpose of the policy to reduce this on both sides.

Anxiety over provision of civil defence

There was a good deal of anxiety about whether or not the provision for civil defence was adequate, Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Defence, said.

He was answering Mr John Evans (Newton, Lab) who said the minister should make it clear to his NATO colleagues that he accepted there could be no civil defence against a nuclear attack and that they should not waste taxpayers' money on this fruitless enterprise.
Mr Pym—Mr Evans is expressing a minority view. Civil defence is not my responsibility but there is a great deal of anxiety about whether or not the provision that is made is adequate. The Secretary (Mr William Whitelaw) has this matter under review at present.

Mr Frank Allauz (Salford, East, Lab)—Even if we do not have sheltered five storeys below the surface, will they not have to come up some time after? Will they not find that the civil defence is a totally radio active apart from being subject to a fire storm?
Mr Pym—The point about our

both sides in these areas. Unless there is a verified and even-handed response on both sides it behoves us to guard ourselves by having adequate forces. (Conservative cheer.)

Mr Winston Churchill (Stretford, C)—Has the minister considered the possibility of placing these missiles not on bases where they are present but on bases where they are not? The decision whether to keep them close together or widely dispersed will depend upon the circumstances of that time.

Mr Pym—The answer is that the control that would exist is the same as it has been hitherto. There will be joint decision with the United States. It has existed previously and it is the arrangement that will continue in future.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab)—Will we have control over these missiles?

Mr Pym—The answer is that the control that would exist is the same as it has been hitherto. There will be joint decision with the United States. It has existed previously and it is the arrangement that will continue in future.

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Servicemen may get help to buy a house

The Government was looking at an assisted house purchase scheme which will help Servicemen to buy their own homes, Mr Barry Hayhoe, Under Secretary for Defence for the Army said during question time.

Mr Kenneth Lewis (Rutland and Stamford, C) asked the Government to bring forward proposals for improving the opportunities for Servicemen to buy their own homes ready for retirement.

Mr Hayhoe (Hemel Hempstead, Bedfordshire, C)—We intend to introduce a scheme to sell surplus married quarters to Servicemen on preferential terms broadly in line with those existing for comparable housing. We are also looking at other ways of helping Servicemen to buy their own homes, but it is too soon yet to give details.

Mr Lewis—One of the best ways a Serviceman could be helped to buy his own home would be to allow him to arrange for the Treasury to allow any Serviceman to buy a house and let it and not to have to pay capital gains tax when he sells it.

Mr Hayhoe—I will look at that suggestion.
Mr Richard Mitchell (Southampton, Itchen, Lab)—There are still a number of married quarters in the Defence Department which are being sold at a loss. It is a scandalous waste of public money that the Defence Department is forced to obtain orders to evict Servicemen from married quarters before local authorities will rehouse them.

Mr Hayhoe—Many local authorities will only rehouse a Serviceman if he can come from a school. There are normally done in a way which causes little, if any, hardship to the individual concerned. (Labour shout of dissent.)

Mr Peter Bottomley (Greenwich, Woolwich, West, C)—There are a number of cases in my constituency where arrangements between local authorities and the Defence Department have broken down.

Mr Hayhoe—We are looking at an assisted house purchase scheme which will help Servicemen to buy their own homes.
Mr Dennis Concanan, an Opposition spokesman on defence (Mansfield, Lab), said that he was disappointed that the Government was not more prepared to find houses for Servicemen after they had spent 22 or 23 years in the armed forces.

Mr Hayhoe—The responsibility for allocating council accommodation rests with the local authorities concerned. We are looking at other ways of helping Servicemen to buy their own homes, but it is too soon yet to give details.

EEC much less effective without Britain

It was in Britain's interest and in the interests of Europe as a whole that Britain should stay a member of the European Community, Mr Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister, reaffirmed at question time.

I believe (she said) that the Community would be much less effective without Britain. Nothing would move me from that belief.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) shouted—You will never get what you want if you leave the Community. Mr Thatcher said that despite Mr Heffer's eloquence on French television last night she was not moved from her belief in the budget by saying in advance that under no circumstances would she accept the empty chair policy or withdrawal from the EEC.

Mr Timothy Renton (Mid Sussex, C)—May I congratulate Mrs Thatcher on the title she has won by her letter by saying that the Community would be much less effective without Britain. As a chemist she will certainly know that uranium causes fusion as well as fission. Europe today badly needs to be more united, not less. There is the Community—I do not wish to

enter into a discussion on the chemical qualities of uranium except to say it is a very lively metal (Laughter).
Europe does indeed need to be united and stay united as free Europe against the non-free part of Europe which is bound by hands of steel around the Soviet Union.

Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition (Cardiff, South-East, Lab)—It was made clear at the time of the original negotiations for entry to the EEC that if an unacceptable situation should arise appropriate measures should be taken to put it right and that the common agricultural policy expenditure should be reduced to below 50 per cent.

Mr Thatcher—I do not wish to enter into a discussion on the chemical qualities of uranium except to say it is a very lively metal (Laughter).
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Minister 'totally justified' in action against area health authority

Those who unwittingly acted unlawfully as a result of Mr Patrick Jenkins' appointment last year of Commissioners to the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority (Teaching) should not be penalised, Mr Jenkins, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in moving the second reading of the National Health Service (Invalid Direction) Bill.

I have already offered to the House (he said) my full and unqualified apology for having to bring in this measure. I repeat it now.

Nothing which I have to say on this occasion is intended in any way to detract from that apology or from the clear ministerial responsibility which I accept.

The purpose of the Bill is to remove from the area health authority the powers of direction available to him.

In spite of that clear warning (he said) the area health authority continued to equivocate. They gave instructions to reduce the current overspending of £5.3m by £1m but added a rider that this should be no cuts to patient services and staff.

Mr Jenkins had expressed deep misgivings about that rider and had called for the region and area to turn their attention to the problem from 1981 onwards and to report to him by the end of March, 1979.

That was the position he inherited on coming into office. A consistent refusal by the authority to live within its income despite repeated warnings from Mr Jenkins.

Indeed so far from any reductions, at their May meeting last year the authority was warned by the Secretary of State that the trend appeared to be increasing. This was well before the budget.

Mr Jenkins said that the area health authority had been instructed to reduce its overspending by £5.3m in 1979-80 and to make significant progress by the end of 1979. By October 1978 it had become clear that the health authority would not comply with the minister's decision. On making it plain that health authorities' cash limits would not be increased to cover the effects of inflation, although there would be a small increase in the area's share of the sum of £23m which the previous Government had decided to withhold.

On July 30, the area had accepted the need to find cuts of £2m but declined to endorse the decisions which would be necessary to make the full savings required, as recommended by its members. The authority was asked to agree to a reduction in patient services and staff, but refused to do so. The authority was asked to agree to a reduction in patient services and staff, but refused to do so.

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Inquiry on London hospitals urged

Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman on social services (Salford, West, Lab), said Mr Jenkins had at times tried to put a gloss on the situation, but the basic fact was that the health authority had not taken sufficient advice from the people that had been disadvantaged and to the hospitals that had been affected.

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New agency for police complaints proposed

After 10 years of almost continuous investigations, it was clear that corruption among police officers was a serious problem, Mr Robert Mark, down to the Operation Community, said.

Mr Mark said that the police had been successful in dealing with corruption, but it was clear that corruption among police officers was a serious problem, Mr Robert Mark, down to the Operation Community, said.

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Attack on TV programme about soldiers

The BBC2 television programme, Sunday Night, *Gone for Good*, attacked by a former Ministry of Defence spokesman as "disgraceful" and "insulting" to the armed forces.

Mr Patrick Wall (Haltwhistle, Lab) said the programme was a disgraceful and insulting attack on the armed forces. He said the programme was a disgraceful and insulting attack on the armed forces.

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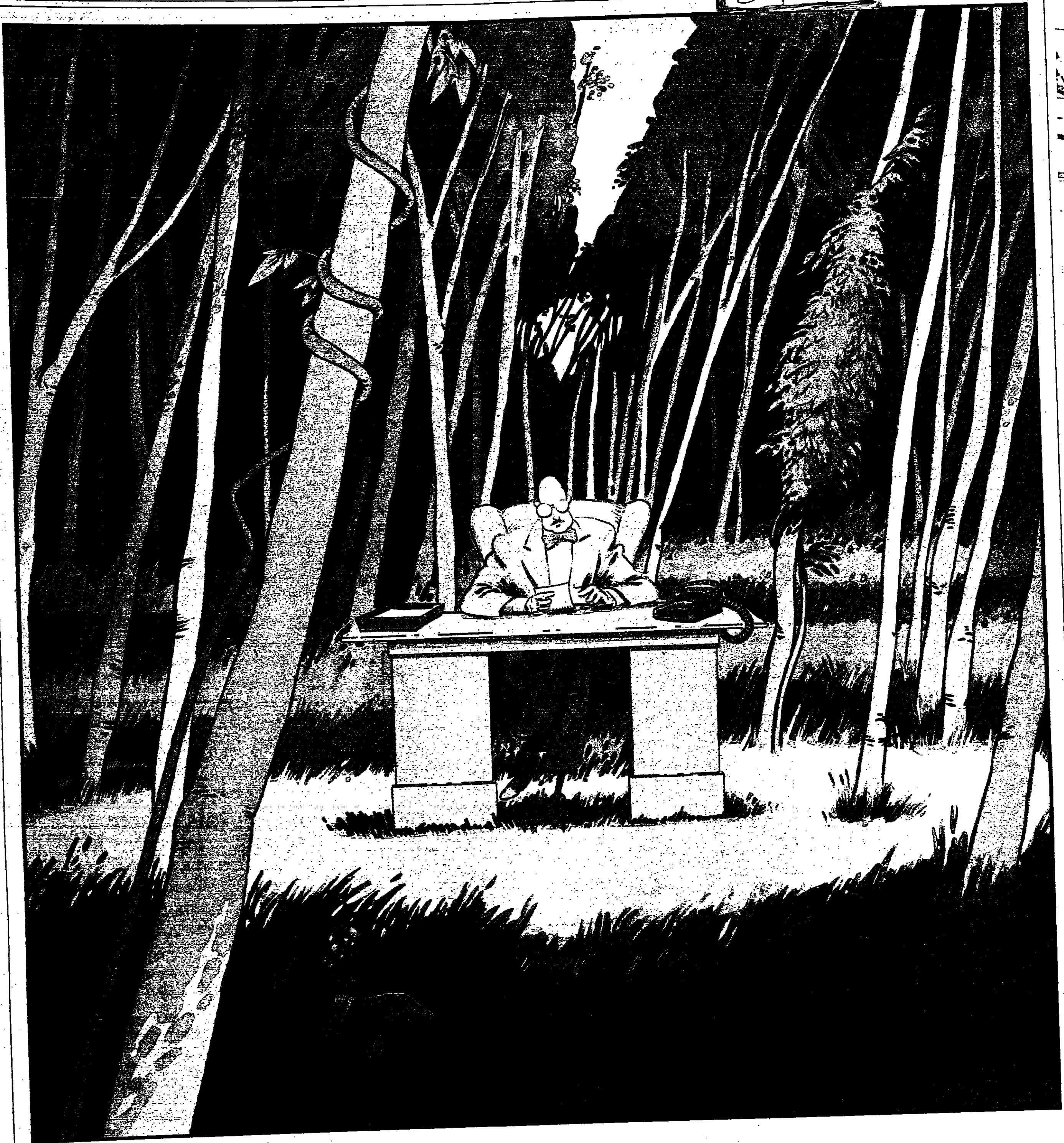
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Jp 11/10/50



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On the export finance side alone such things as documentary credits, discounting of bills, and foreign exchange and insurance can be made available. If you're interested just get in touch with your local NatWest manager.

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R MUGABE BROADENS HIS BASE

realistic and conciliatory as which Mr Mugabe has in his statements as a minister-designate is fully cited in the cabinet which he posed yesterday to Lord. The most important element, reached after much bargaining, is that of Mr no to home affairs, which him in control of the British Africa Police, a traditional force for a force that he will re-name and has already unced his intention of de-arriving. The brief glimpse of British bobby unarmed on heat will perhaps make this easier: the BSAP has itions of humanity and ncy which should be con- Home affairs, however, gives Mr Nkomo, and by vation the Ndebele people, power in the reconstruction be countryside and the rais- of the status of the African ivator, indeed of the African ker and citizen generally. A reassurance the white com- Mr Mugabe has acted a omb in giving responsi- v for commerce and industry v David Smith and for agri- to Mr Norman. Mr man's job will be above all insure that the productivity xporting potential of the e white-owned commercial as is maintained; and this also reassures President hel and President Kaunda, need substantial quantities corn and other foodstuffs n Zimbabwe. Mr David Smith served the governments of Ian Smith and Bishop zorewa, but he is not an abra- figure: he represents now a sure of continuity and a con- trise shall thrive that is dly doctrinaire marxism.

Finance has gone to Mr Enos Nkala, who may not be experi- ed, but is known as a man of intellectual grasp and acumen. Naturally, most portfolios have gone to Mr Mugabe's and Mr Nkomo's main lieutenants, and they will have to rely heavily on their white officials too. This is how all newly Africanized gov- ernments have operated for the first year and more, both franco- phone, and anglophone; but Zimbabwe, thanks to the local university, to its considerable wealth, and to white example, possesses a far larger reservoir of graduates than most black states. This ought to be reflected in the effectiveness of Mr Mugabe's government, which can be truly called a national and inter-racial administration fitted to tackle the immediate task.

Mr Mugabe is keeping for himself defence, with the all-important problem of amal- gamating the previously hosti- le armies into a single army—a possible source of future instabi- lity. The deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister is his previous deputy, who will now have to develop those hints of a conciliatory foreign policy which Mr Mugabe has thrown out. He has already dealt very shrewdly with South Africa by 'enunciating a policy of normal friendly relations' and non- interference which in no way detracts from Zimbabwe's moral opposition to apartheid. That opposition will in due course produce diplomatic developments in matters such as black refugees from South Africa's police state and its draconian anti-terrorist laws. That is to come, but mean- while Mr Mugabe's very modera- tion will deepen South Africa's internal debate, and maybe strengthen the voice of its

verlights. Mr Mugabe's readi- ness to widen contacts is shown in his proposal that Zimbabwe should enter the Commonwealth; it must be expected that he will balance any links with Britain and the West with gestures to the revolutionary half of the world. It is a fair beginning. But it must be repeated that these are early days. It is significant that no prominent leader seems to want the figurehead job of presi- dent. Though there were reasons for adopting it at Lancaster House, the cabinet system that Mr Mugabe is to head is not very congenial to the African spirit. The pressure to convert it to an executive presidency will grow, even though this will produce tensions. But at the moment it allows every part of the com- munity to have a voice of some force at the centre, which is com- forting in the transition period when detailed policies have yet to be worked out.

Lord Soames's mission is thus nearly complete. Independence day has to be settled, and the extent to which Mr Mugabe's sense of the suitable in the hand- over ceremonies can be met has to be decided. Looking back at Britain's record, interspersed with so much humiliation and loss in the UDI period, one's instinct is to opt for simplicity. Rhodesia was never British administered in the sense that other colonies were. Yet the Africans have had their way: a transition following an independ- ence conference and new con- stitution as though Britain had all along possessed a real sovereignty and power. In fact an honourable act of mediation is now coming to an end in an unexpectedly calm political climate.

THE AUDITOR GENERAL'S DUTIES

most interesting feature the Green Paper on the role the Comptroller and Auditor general is the recommendation it does not make. It is itary to hold up him and Exchequer and Audit Depart- as the one satisfactory mple of how a select commit- of the House of Commons uld be served. To a large ent that is fair, even though department does suffer from e lack of expertise in par- ular fields. The Public ounts Committee has been- d immensely from the dif- investigations conducted on behalf.

for many years the Com- pter and Auditor General has confined himself to a finan- l audit in the narrow sense, ncy concerned not only that ney should have been spent- ily but also that it should e been spent efficiently. A Green Paper confirms that s kind of efficiency audit uld continue. It also suggests it in appropriate cases he uld investigate the effective- ss of programmes and, pro- in meeting established lity goals. That is in line with way in which the PAC has en developing its role, and it st obviously make sense for n and his department to match ir operations to its purposes.

But the Green Paper speci- ally excludes policy questions from its remit: "The C and AG should not get involved in de- bate about the merits of particu- lar policy objectives, as distinct from the efficiency or cost- effectiveness of measures de- signed to pursue them". So long as he is serving only the PAC that must be right. The PAC's task is an auditing function, even if the word audit may reasonably be interpreted quite broadly. Policy considerations are the job of the new range of departmental select committees. But should the C and AG be required to examine policy with a view to serving all these committees?

That would be a very radical change. The Exchequer and Audit Department would have to be expanded so that it would pro- nely become something like a counter Civil Service at the disposal of Parliament, though with nothing like the size of the Civil Service itself. For the moment it would be unwise to move at all in that direction. This is not the time, when the Govern- ment is rightly seeking all possible public expenditure cuts and is reducing the central bureaucracy, to develop a new parliamentary bureaucracy. The departmental select committees are only beginning their work, and it would be sensible to allow

some time to pass before judging whether the present ad hoc arrangements, whereby each committee chooses its own specialist advisers, are satisfac- tory.

In principle there is a great deal to be said for this kind of flexibility. But its success does depend, among other things, upon a sufficient number of people with the necessary ex- pertise being prepared to devote enough time to the task. That would present less of a difficulty if there were stronger private "think tanks" in Britain, with larger resources, which could second precisely the right kind of person for this work. It may be that the somewhat rigid career patterns in Britain present too great an obstacle to such an informal procedure. In that case, attention ought to be given at some stage to building up a corps of parliamentary advisers, who would devote themselves full time to this work. Such a service would naturally be larger than the present Exchequer and Audit Department and could therefore offer a proper career structure, which would be important for attracting recruits of the right calibre. The worst of all worlds would be to allow the new com- mittees to founder indefinitely for lack of an adequate range of advice.

MEETING OF MINDS IN KUALA LUMPUR

st week's meeting in Kuala Lumpur between the European Community and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) had no difficulty in finding matters of common con- cern to chew over and generally agree upon. Kampuchea is under a Vietnamese occupying force that shows no signs of withdrawing: this is intolerable all principles of independent verignty and remains a threat, the region so long as it lasts. Besides, an already acute refugee problem has now acquired dangerous military overtones. and Carrington, Herr Genscher and their colleagues would say most of the same of the threat at faced them from the Soviet vasion of Afghanistan. In the ent both sides found they could ally support the other in call- ing for a withdrawal of foreign oops in each country.

Common to both crises is the ussian presence and some ussian purpose, if only as an tive ally of the Vietnamese in dochina. But ASEAN, though ateful for a better European- nderstanding of its problem, not hope to solve Kam- chuea's future by the means oposed by the Europeans for afghanistan. Nobody has been ble to suggest how a neutral

Kampuchea could be conjured up from the tragic confusion of the country. ASEAN feels it can only support the Pol Pot govern- ment on principle (if it still deserves the name: are the Khmer Rouges credible as the reformed characters that they are now presenting themselves to be?). Certainly the Heng Samrin government has no more independent existence in Phnom Penh than the Babrak Karmal one has in Kabul. Furthermore, ASEAN is only too conscious that the Soviet backing for the Vietnamese is part of the larger struggle with China and that is most definitely a conflict that they want to keep out of.

In the past few years this has needed some nimble footwork. No ASEAN is not a military alliance and will not become one, is one agreed position. Another is that if ASEAN and China take the same view of Kampuchea that means that they share a belief in non-interference with independent countries; it cannot be construed as an alignment with China in its confrontation with Soviet power. But now that ASEAN has been reassured that its particular regional problem is better understood, its members can also take comfort from the evidence that the Russian in-

volvement in Afghanistan has noticeably lessened the pressure that they face in Indochina. The aid flows less freely to Vietnam; the political priorities are some- what downgraded; the prospect of Soviet naval bases in Vietnam recedes; and in consequence Vietnam's view of her ASEAN neighbours is becoming more cooperative.

ASEAN's continuing difficulty is relations with the big powers. There is still a major American presence in the Philippines and that is generally accepted as desirable. China's interest in the region cannot be ignored; even the Indonesians are now belatedly reconsidering their long-severed relations with Peking. As for the Russians, who may be low in the popularity rating with them too ASEAN needs and wants equitable relations. All the same, talking things over with the Nine, whose weight is not at all concentrated, can be rewarding: there is no pressure there. Perhaps Mr Huang Hua, China's Foreign Minister, who arrived yesterday in Manila on an ASEAN tour that will take him to Kuala Lum- pur and Singapore will draw more on quiet Taoist principles in keeping relations sweet be- tween Peking and the ASEAN powers.

fraction of the total running costs of the school, yet are crucial to its survival as an internationally respected centre of excellence.

Scholars have been chosen annu- ally from among the most able graduates of British schools of art and architecture. The unpaid facul- ties responsible for the selection of scholars provide them with advice and support during their tenure and with an invaluable network of contacts during their subsequent careers. All this will end with the withdrawal of the scholarships.

The damage done will be quite disproportionate to the relatively small sum of money involved. The 1851 Commissioners are understood

to believe that this money would be better spent on studies more directly linked to applied design. Such studies are important and should be supported, but it is quite wrong to do so at the expense of the equally important studies in fine art and architecture that have been very successfully established and maintained for many years at the British School at Rome.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL de MONCHAUX,
Chairman of the Faculty of Sculpture,
The British School at Rome,
c/o Camberwell School of Art
and Crafts,
Packham Road, SE3.

BBC cuts in music services

From the Chairman, Broadcasting Council for Scotland

Sir, Your distinguished corres- pondents have been rightly shocked by the proposal to disband the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. It is a fine orchestra, and it has provided all the things which have been mentioned: a training ground for musicians, a platform for Scottish composers, a pool of teachers for the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and an organiza- tion free of box-office pressures. Nevertheless, the harsh fact is that Scotland is no more immune than the rest of the United Kingdom to the realities of the BBC's present financial position. For a long time, the BBC, here as elsewhere, has been providing a first class service at second class rates: five radio and two television networks for under 10p per household. It is a pity we could not have continued all our former services and also provided money for development. But we did not get a licence fee of 12p per day; and since we have no reserves, we must now cut our costs in Scotland by 7 per cent.

Of course responsibility is to get programmes to audiences. We dare not lose sight of that duty. We cannot make religious, agricultural, Gaelic, drama or news and current affairs programmes without pro- ducers, designers, editors and cameramen. But we can provide symphonic music without having a house symphony orchestra, a large proportion of the costs of which has nothing to do with broadcasting as such.

If we keep the SSO, we shall have to reduce posts elsewhere by at least an equal number, with an infinitely more damaging effect on our capacity, and duty, to produce pro- grammes—damage extending also to the actors, writers, composers and musicians who are the people behind these programmes. And this would be in addition to the more than sixty administrative and support posts which we are in any case being forced to lose.

As Anon said: "We cannot see why musicians alone should be given a guarantee of security and continued employment when other artists, represented by other unions, can face the possibility of being laid off. The BBC must feel able to make cuts where it judges they will least affect its programmes. We would not wish to see a nation- ally broadcasted orchestra in Scotland or Wales abandoned. But we would like to see the present rigid demar- cation abolished between the BBC's orchestras and those orchestras which are assisted by the Arts Council". I am happy to note that in Scotland, Mr Coney has already given a lead by jointly fund- ing the BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra.

The Broadcasting Council for Scotland does not wish to see the SSO abandoned either—let alone disbanded. Indeed, we believe it can be saved, and very much hope it will be. We are prepared to work strenuously with others to that end.

The only purpose of our proposal is to produce the cut in costs which has been forced on us by too low a licence fee, when the BBC was over-exposed to the vicissitudes and after the war, it was able to carry the major burden of musical patronage in this country; and it was proud to do so. Now, however, we can no longer afford to do so, and we are therefore seeking the help of other bodies to rescue the SSO, and ten days ago, the orchestra could be regarded not just as a BBC organization but as a Scottish broadcasting resource; he added that there were three commercial television stations serving Scotland and two commercial radio stations which between them made a very large profit.

Patrick Ramsey, Controller, BBC Scotland, explained last week that the SSO is, alas, not the only orchestra, nor the BBC the only patron in Scotland, facing severe financial weather.

"Is it possible," he asked, "that out of this crisis might come new ideas... and more security for those who make their living by and through music?" Will those who have expressed their dismay at the possible loss of the SSO, dismay which the Broadcasting Council for Scotland feels as keenly as they, come forward to help the BBC provide the financial support it can no longer provide on its own?

Dr Roger Young, Broadcasting House, Queen Margaret Drive, Glasgow, has written to me on March 10.

Yours faithfully,
DR ROGER YOUNG,
Broadcasting House,
Queen Margaret Drive,
Glasgow, G3 7NF.

March 10.

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Queen Margaret Drive,
Glasgow, G3 7NF.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lessons from Zimbabwe elections

From the Bishop of Mashonaland

Sir, Lord Soames, the Common- wealth Monitoring Force, and all others concerned have done a superb piece of work in Zimbabwe. But it was undertaken because during the last few months, in Lusaka and at Lancaster House, the British Govern- ment had decided that peace at any price must be the answer to the dreadful war in this country. The African people of Zimbabwe reached the same conclusion, so that in effect the country was handed to those trying to take it by force, who had made it abundantly clear that mur- der and destruction would continue unless this were done. Africans could not forget the untold thousands of their own people brutally killed (together with 44 European missionaries and their families, and over two hundred white farmers and their families). They had suffered from the sides in the war beyond endurance. So, as always in Africa, where individual opinion means nothing, the belief went across the country like a bush fire that only by appeasement could peace be restored. The Shona are pragmatic and very shrewd; there was no problem in switching from Murewa to Mugabe, within a 10-month period, when the signs were so ominous. Thus, last month we had a free poll but an unfair elec- tion. So keen were the people to get rid of the white minority that, in this kind of election, in the most vital province, 112 per cent of the assessed voters turned out, including an unknown number of children who were rarely asked for credentials. Suppose that in England 22,000

heavily armed IRA terrorists were encamped at 14 points round the country, moving in and out of the camps and in touch with another 5,000 of their fellows who were living among the civilian population. Would the English people, with not a gun between them, hold out against handing over Northern Ireland?

This is a fair analogy of what has just happened here. Moreover every one of the weapons used by the Zimbabwe National Liberation Army and the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army were donated by Marxist countries which also trained the men that used them. The result was predictable, but there now exists a pro-Marxist bloc from coast to coast across Africa, so that the Cape sea routes are already untenable by the West in time of war.

It is likely that the sheer econo- mic success of Zimbabwe, the good race relations which have always existed, and the comparable chaos in most other independent African countries, will turn Mugabe into a free enterprise capitalist from hav- ing been an avowed Marxist. He is already very wealthy and is a gifted and scholarly man. Or will it be that having sown the wind of appeasement to the Soviets, one day the whirlwind must be reaped?

I am, Sir,
PAUL MASHONALAND,
Diocesan Office,
PO Box UA7,
Paget House,
Union Avenue,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
March 5.

Christians in Africa

From the Right Reverend Dr J. A. Robinson

Sir, Mr Boddy is to be congratulated in responding so promptly and positively to the lessons for his country from the events of Zimbabwe, if, as he is reported, he is really calling a multi-racial conference and urging the necessity even now of a "Christian" settle- ment.

From the experience of two visits to South Africa may I presume to suggest two conditions for its success?

1. That those Christians who are most active in working for non-violent radical solutions should be encouraged rather than blocked. In particular that Byers Naudé, David Russell and Desmond Tutu, whom I, like all who know them, can vouch to be men of peace and reconcilia- tion, should be released from banning, imprisonment and passport restriction rather than subjected to

constant fresh humiliation. As I went round South Africa—and indeed Israel afterwards—the words of John F. Kennedy kept haunting me: "It is those who make the peaceful revolution impossible who make the violent revolution inevit- able."

2. That the various groupings at the conference should be represented by those whom they choose. In par- ticular that Nelson Mandela and other natural leaders at present on Robben Island should be allowed to speak for those who look to them. One of the lessons of Rhodesia is surely that blacks whom whites put up are certain to be disowned and that blacks who are reduced to violence when all other paths to reform are closed are by no means necessarily men of war if the doors are open.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN A. T. ROBINSON,
Trinity College,
Cambridge.
March 10.

London medical schools

From Professor M. W. Greaves

Sir, It is understandable that some of the more dramatic recommenda- tions of the Flowers report, notably closure of Westminster Medical School, should have received wide publicity. However, the proposed abolition of the specialist postgraduate medical schools is of much more sinister significance, be- cause their unique clinical and academic functions make them irreplaceable.

The report advocates that the Institute of Dermatology be re- located, in a greatly reduced form, to St. George's Medical School, Tooting, and that it "cease to exist as a separate entity". The Institute, and its Hospital, with their un- rivalled facilities, fulfil an ever- expanding role as a national and international centre for diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of difficult skin problems. In particular, techniques and expertise for elu- cidation of industrial dermatitis, photodermatitis and skin infections are not available anywhere else.

The Institute of Dermatology is the only major multi-disciplinary centre engaged in dermatological research in Britain. Its high academic status in research can be gauged from the fact that over one third of its total annual income is derived from research awards, mainly from the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and the Dumbell Trust. The magnitude of the

economic and social burden of skin disease is only now becoming recognised, but the number of un- filled vacancies for consultant der- matologists rises year by year.

Nearly all teaching hospital con- sultant dermatologists receive a major part of their training at the Institute through attendance at clinical demonstrations, seminars and lectures. These roles are obvi- ously dependent upon easy accessi- bility in a central location, more particularly since dermatology is essentially an out-patient specialty, a fact that the Committee has ap- parently overlooked.

The Flowers Committee's pro- posals, based as they appear to be, on administrative expediency, with- out regard for academic or clinical excellence or for the needs of patients, are unsatisfactory. The Institute of Dermatology has never been averse to relocation; clearly, its present situation in which it is sited in two widely separated regions of London is unacceptable. But any relocation must be in a central site. The Flowers proposals for redeployment of undergraduate teaching hospital resources within the central London area provide ample scope for an acceptable solution which will meet our special requirements.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM W. GREAVES,
The Institute of Dermatology,
Westminster Medical School,
March 3.

Civil defence precautions

From General Sir Walter Walker

Sir, I have followed with interest the articles and letters that have appeared recently in your news- paper on the need for an up-to-date form of Civil Defence. What seems to be overlooked, however, is that it will not take a nuclear strike to inflict severe casualties on the dis- trict of this country. A conventional strike is now the most likely threat.

The Soviets now have long-range aircraft such as the TU-22 Backfire bombers, which are capable of launching air-to-surface stand-off conventional missiles of devastat- ing lethality and destruction, and with such pinpoint accuracy and precision that the Home Office, for instance, could be picked out from the Ministry of Defence. Because of our strategic location vis-à-vis the North Sea and Atlantic and the very large numbers of rein- forcements of aircraft, men and supplies that will be passing through this country, we are now the Soviets' No 1 target.

The air defence, missile defence and civil defence of the Home Base are hopelessly inadequate. As a

start we should plan to make use of underground car parks and simi- lar facilities which were not avail- able in such quantity in World War II, and we must resurrect a modern form of CD.

For the modest sum of £30,000 per county we could raise an all- volunteer CD and thus show our resolution and will to defend our- selves. Volunteers would flock to the CD colours.

As for a nuclear attack, it would not necessarily be such as to reduce the whole of Britain to ashes. The Russians have acquired small yield weapons and accurate delivery systems which can take out targets such as airfields and dock facilities without destroying the entire coun- try surrounding them. Many people in Britain would survive such attacks and many more would be saved by the creation of a civil defence plan to help those in the most likely target areas on the lines that I have suggested.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER WALKER,
Charlton House,
Charlton All Saints,
Salisbury,
Wiltshire,
March 7.

A foreign field

From Mr Theon Wilkinson

Sir, The question posed by Thurstan Shaw (February 28) about the future of neglected British graves in Nigeria and elsewhere in our former imperial territories, calls for an answer. The subject has been fre- quently raised in my correspon- dence columns over the past few years—from Italy, Cyprus, the Middle East and India—and in a letter three years ago I invited a service historic cemeteries, convert disused cemeteries and register information on monumental inscrip- tions in Asia.

As a result of an enthusiastic response, the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia was formed, registered as a charity and has now expanded to over 500

members with local branches and helpers on project work. A major achievement has been the extensive restoration of "The Great Burial Ground", at the South Park Street Cemetery in Calcutta was called. Other projects have been under- taken in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bihar, Assam, Coorg, etc., whilst records are being built up cemetery by cemetery, with photographs and biographical details and publica- tions where appropriate.

Perhaps there is a need for a similar organization covering Africa? Yours faithfully,
THEON WILKINSON,
Honorary Secretary,
British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia,
761 Chaffield Avenue,
Putney, SW15.
March 7.

A soldier's view of the Army

From Field Marshal Lord Harding of Petherton

Sir, May I claim the courtesy of your columns to make the strongest possible protest against the travesty of the character of the British soldier as presented in the subver- sive programme on BBC 2 last night (March 9) entitled *Gone for a Soldier*?

No reference was made to the courage and endurance, the sacrifice and good comradeship, or the good- humoured forbearance in the face of severe provocation displayed by British troops in many campaigns in all parts of the world over the past 300 years or more, nor to mention their most recent successful com- pletion of a particularly difficult and potentially dangerous task in Rhodesia.

If the implied criticism was of the cause for which they fought and died, it was directed against the wrong target. I suggest that those responsible for the production of this programme would do well to reflect on the difference there would be in their lives today if British soldiers had not been pre- pared to face the horrors, dangers and hardships of war rather than submit us all to the tyrannies of the Kaiser and his Prussians or Hitler and his Nazis.

If the situation we face today I quote, I hope correctly, a sentence from the writings of the ancient Greek philosopher Polybius: "War is a fearful thing but not so fearful that we should submit to anything to avoid it".

Yours indignantly,
HARDING OF PETHERTON,
The Barton,
Nether Compton,
Sherborne,
Dorset.
March 10.

Channel tunnel

From Mr A. V. Hooker

Sir, In your leader today, you rightly draw attention to the benefits of a single-tube, rail-only Channel tunnel including relief to Heathrow and Gatwick.

Such a tunnel, by providing the vital link in a "land bridge" from the Bristol Channel to France and beyond, could also help to stimulate trade in the Severn estuary ports and thereby relieve congestion in the English Channel. More than 10 years have elapsed since Severnside was designated one of three outstanding sites in the United Kingdom for a Maritime Industrial Development Area (MIDA) but the opportunities have not yet been seized.

An inter-modal freight complex is only one of many proposals which have been put forward for the Severn estuary and a serious evaluation is now needed. A long- term plan, implemented in manag- eable stages, would do much to provide a focal point for the major new industries which are urgent- ly needed to supplement a much re- duced steel industry.

Yours faithfully,
A. V. HOOKER,
240 Cyncoed Road,
Cardiff.
March 7.

False criteria

From Mr Roy Clapp

Sir, Mr Frank Milner (March 7) is not over-cautious when he states that preparatory drawings by Titian had no commercial value between 1515 and 1525.

Titian's friend, the writer Pietro Aretino, would not have agreed with Mr Milner. For example, in January, 1538, Aretino wrote to Michelangelo and "craved one of those drawings you toss carelessly into the fire".

But Mr Milner never seen examples of the drawings collected by Vasari during the mid-sixteenth century in his "Libro di disegni".

In the course of study I have made many copies of drawings in print or handwriting. The intention is to do so in the present when the "handwriting" of the original is slavishly copied as in the "Titians" Yours sincerely,
ROY CLAPP,
Marble carver,
Shenstone,
Over Kellet,
Canterbury,
Lancashire,
March 7.

Afghanistan status

From the Reverend Professor G. D. Kilpatrick

Sir, You are right in your leading Article of March 3 to have misgiv- ings about the proposal that Afghanistan should be declared neutral by international agreement. Can Afghanistan be declared a ward of the United Nations for a limited period? This could furnish a basis for negotiations and provide for the Afghans themselves to de- termine the status of their country when the warship clapped.

Yours faithfully,
G. D. KILPATRICK,
72 Lathbury Road,
Oxford.
March 5.

Brutality to dolphins

From Miss Mary Jelley

Sir, As this mass murder of dol- phins is considered "customary" in Japan, should it not also be cus- tomary to kill such highly intelligent friends of man by less barbaric methods?

Yours truly,
MARY E. JELLEY,
The Shepherd's Cottage,
Chute,
near Andover,
March 8.

Hand to hand

From Miss Margaret Prideaux

Sir, As a child I had tea with Georgina Hogarth, Dickens's star- ling-law, who kept house for him in his later years. I am 75. Is this a handshake?

Yours obedient servant,
MARGARET PRIDEAUX,
89 Princes Gate Mews, SW7.
March 5.

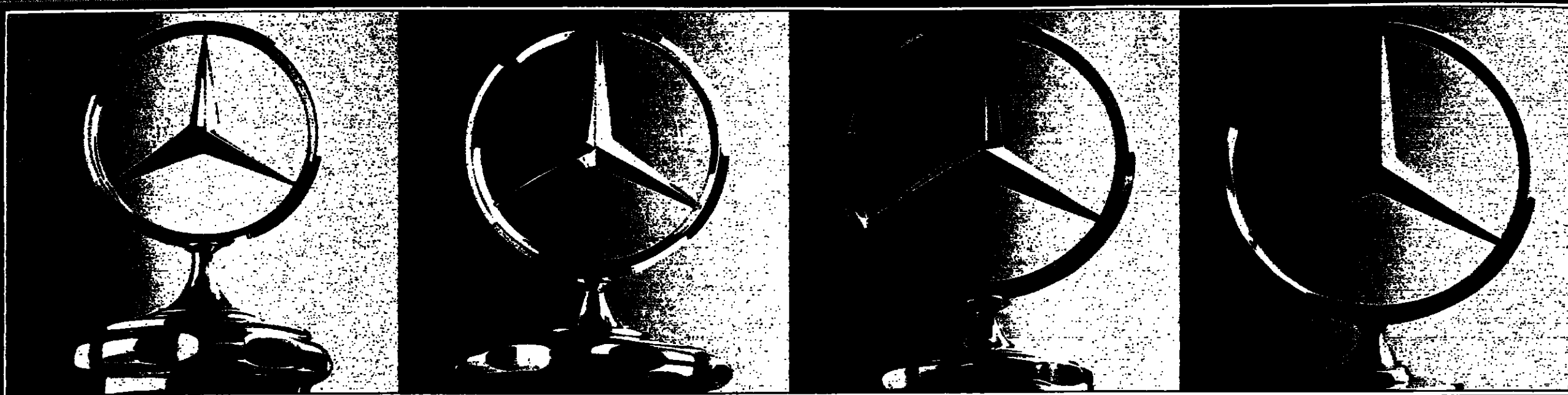
End of Rome scholarship

From Mr Paul de Monchaux

Professor de Monchaux (March 4) right: the withdrawal of the Rome Scholarships will "cause con- cernation to all concerned with the future of art in this country".

The Rome scholars form the key element of a lively and educationally unique community of artists, archi- tects, archaeologists and classical scholars who live and work together at the British School at Rome.

The Royal Commissioners for the exhibition of 1851 founded the scholarships and have supported them for 70 years. The funds in- volved are by now only a small



COURT CIRCULAR

KINGHAM PALACE
The Queen held an audience at Buckingham Palace this morning.

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP (Prime Minister) and a Lord of the Treasury, had audience of Her Majesty this morning.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as an honorary member, this morning attended a Conference on the subject of the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, SW7, at His Royal Highness was joined by the President of the Society (the Lord Hunt).

Commander Anthony Johnson was in attendance. The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the Council of the Royal Geographical Society, attended the British Exhibition at the Stock Exchange and received upon the right hand of the Lord (Sir Peter Gosselin) and Deputy Chairman of the Stock Exchange (Mr G. M. Nissen).

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Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor: At a council meeting in Westminster yesterday were (standing, left to right) Sir Eric Cheadle, Lord Fraser of Kilmorack, Mr A. Colin Cole, Sir

Luncheon
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William Harris, Sir Roger Falk, Sir John Tilney and (sitting) Sir Anthony Lewis, Sir Amar Maini, Sir Rex Niven, Sir Arthur Driver, Sir Gilbert Inglefield, Mrs E. Reid, Sir John Howard

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Service dinner
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OBITUARY

MR J. D. SCOTT

Novelist and war historian

Mr J. D. Scott, who died on March 10 at the age of 63, was the author of a number of novels and the editor of the *Spectator* for a short time in the 1950s.

John Dick Scott was born on February 26, the son of Alexander Scott, OBE, and Margaret Gourlay Allardice. He was educated at Stewarts College, Edinburgh, and Edinburgh University where he graduated MA with honours in history.

During the Second World War he served in the Ministry of Aircraft Production as an Assistant Principal from 1940 to 1944. In 1944 he was attached to the Cabinet Office for work on the official history of the war.

After the war he began writing and this was soon to become a full time occupation though he did hold two editorships, the *Literary Digest* from 1953 to 1956, and the editorship of *Finance and Development* from 1963 to 1974.

Scott's first novel appeared in 1947 and gave a slightly unusual twist to a story of the type which was to become familiar enough in the post-war years. The *Cellar* featured an RAF pilot here, Aubrey, up to this point a child of fortune, shot down over France and taken into captivity by the Germans by sympathisers in a cellar. The conventional suspense aspects of such a story were neatly balanced by the tension between Aubrey and the other two fugitive occupants of the cellar, a young woman, and a young woman ambulance driver, who, for all Aubrey's apparent advantages, gives herself to the

soldier. Convincing in characterization this suggested talents able to operate well above the level of the stock wartime thriller.

The *Cellar* was followed by *The Margin* (1949), a story which contrasted the history of employment in the Civil Service with the luxurious insecurity of the film world, and *The Way to Glory* (1952), the story of a Parisian entanglement for a man on a business trip, a novel which, while it appeared to lean towards a constitution of more conventional elements, still had its wry, self-critical side.

For several years after the appearance of this, Scott wrote no more fiction but in 1956 saw the appearance of *The Administration of War Production*, Scott's contribution to the *Official History*, which he co-wrote with Richard Hughes, the author of *A High Wind in Jamaica* and other novels, Hughes providing the section on the function of the Admiralty while Scott described the Ministry of Supply, the Ministry of Aircraft Production and the Ministry of Production.

Life in Britain (1956) was an engagingly written anatomy of the post-war period. The *Siemens Brothers* (1958) and *Vickers: A History* were works based on Scott's abiding interest in the function of the Admiralty and the Ministry of Production. He revisited fiction in 1963 with *The Penny Penny*, a thriller set in Africa. The *Design and Development of Weapons* (with M. M. Poston and D. H. Hay) appeared in 1965.

Scott married, in 1941, Helen Elisabeth, youngest daughter of Sir Edmund Whittaker, FRS. They had two sons.

MISS IRENE HILTON

Miss Irene Hilton, who died on March 8 at the age of 77, probably did more for the advancement of women than any other woman in the history of the International Federation of University Women, then on its cultural relations committee, which she became convener.

From 1956 to 1959 she was president of the British Federation of University Women and from 1962 to 1965 the elected president of the International Federation of University Women (only the second British woman to hold this office).

In 1957 she led a UNESCO Enquiry into the Access of Women to Higher Education in Underdeveloped Countries and conducted a subsidiary enquiry in six countries into the role of the single woman in the teaching profession. After her official retirement from NACWV in 1972 she became one of its vice-presidents and continued to do much free-lance career work.

A scientist by training, her greatest interest was people and the encouragement of their creativity and enterprise. In retirement she became a WEA lecturer and in the last week of her life, in spite of illness, she took her usual evening class on Creative Writing and her usual poetry group.

A trenchant and racy speaker, a witty and delightful companion, a deeply sympathetic and staunch friend, her ebullience and enthusiasm carried her into innumerable fields in which she will be greatly missed. In the last week of her life, in spite of illness, she took her usual evening class on Creative Writing and her usual poetry group.

OLGA CHEKHOVA

Olga Chekhova, who was seen in over 100 films, died on March 9 at the age of 82. She was related to Anton Chekhov, the Russian writer.

The daughter of an engineer in the Caucasus town of Alexandropol, she was born on April 26, 1897. She left home at 16 on her marriage to her cousin, Michael Chekhov. They were divorced three years later, shortly after the birth of their daughter, Olga, and Olga went to study art and painting in St Petersburg (now Leningrad) and acting in Moscow.

She emigrated with her daughter to Germany in 1921, winning recognition as an actress in the films of the distinguished German director Fritz Murnau. Her leading roles included that of Nora in a film version of Ibsen's *The Doll's House* and prominent parts in *Peer Gynt*, *Bel Ami*, and *Die Drei von der Tankstelle* (The Three from the Gas Station).

MR F. J. S. ELLIS

Mr Francis John Shipley Ellis died in Malta on February 26. Born in 1907 he was great grandson of the founder of the Midland Railway. Educated at Kings School, Peterborough; Lydgate House, Hunstanton; Gresham School, Holt; and Magdalen College, Cambridge, he joined at Peterborough in 1928 the family firm of Ellis and Everard Ltd, of which he eventually became deputy chairman prior to his retirement in 1966.

He was a member of the TA from 1936 and served with the Royal Artillery as lieutenant and captain during the Second World War, finishing in India and North Burma. Soon after the war he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for Huntingdonshire. He was High Sheriff for Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and the Isle

for the Admiralty, Air Ministry and War Office. From 1947 to 1953 she served on the legal and economic status of women committee of the International Federation of University Women, then on its cultural relations committee, which she became convener.

From 1956 to 1959 she was president of the British Federation of University Women and from 1962 to 1965 the elected president of the International Federation of University Women (only the second British woman to hold this office).

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A trenchant and racy speaker, a witty and delightful companion, a deeply sympathetic and staunch friend, her ebullience and enthusiasm carried her into innumerable fields in which she will be greatly missed. In the last week of her life, in spite of illness, she took her usual evening class on Creative Writing and her usual poetry group.

She moved to Munich with her daughter and grand-daughter Vera, with whom she starred in a West German television series in 1971. Active to the last, Miss Chekhova undertook a variety of projects in Munich, including studying medicine, writing books on cosmetics and running a film studio in the city that became the centre for the new German cinema.

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of Ely in 1962; and was appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire in 1963. In 1966 he accepted a War Office appointment as chairman of the Committee for Community Relations with the USAF at Alconbury, in which position he served for three years. He acted as chairman of the Governors of Westwood School, Peterborough, for several years.

He retired to Norfolk in 1967, but served for a further period as JP on the Hunstanton Bench. He was a member of the Church of England, and had been a member of the Order of St. John since 1974. Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and the Isle

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Rothmans pairs qualify in bridge contest

By Our Bridge Correspondent
The third weekend of the Rothmans regional pairs championship organized by the English Bridge Union took place at Leicester and Torquay over the weekend. The following pairs qualified to take part in the final at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham on June 7-8. The Rothmans regional pairs championship organized by the English Bridge Union took place at Leicester and Torquay over the weekend. The following pairs qualified to take part in the final at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham on June 7-8.

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King's College, Taunton

King's College, Taunton will celebrate its centenary during the next two terms, with the senior school having reached its full establishment of 530. The former Convent of St Joseph's has now been converted into a boarding school and includes the new school as well as a pre-preparatory school. The Centenary Appeal projects, which are the construction of a sports hall at the senior school and the rebuilding of the chapel organ, will both be completed by September this year. The sports hall will be opened formally in the Michaelmas Term.

On July 11 Parents' Day will be combined with the Old Alumnus Day and there will be a thanksgiving Mass at which the President of the Woodard Corporation, the Bishop of Wakefield, will preside. The local clergy and the Bishops of Dorchester and Taunton will also be present. On the evening of the elevenh, a centenary ball will take place at King's College.

In 1936 she abandoned this successful academic career to join the slenderly paid staff of the recently formed Women's Employment Federation because of her passionate conviction that girls and women needed far more career advice than they then available. From 1948 to 1972 she worked as organizing secretary of WEF (subsequently the National Advisory Centre on Careers for Women), lecturing and advising in schools and women's organizations all over the country. There must be literally thousands of women now understanding interesting and responsible work who owe the start of their careers to Irene Hilton.

Meanwhile she had wide responsibilities in the NACWV. During the Second World War she undertook special lecturing missions at home and abroad. Although two distinct regions of swirly have been observed, they seem

Stock Exchange Prices Firmer tone



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 10. Dealings End, March 21. § Contango Day, March 24. Settlement Day, March 31.
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

DOUGLAS
CIVIL ENGINEERING
BUILDING CONTRACTORS
BIRMINGHAM · CARDIFF · EDINBURGH · GLASGOW
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Montedison in \$800m Soviet deal

Montedison, Italy's biggest chemical group, will sign a framework agreement with the Soviet Union, which foresees the provision of seven petrochemical plants for a value of \$800m (about £32m).

The agreement is due to be signed by Mr Sukhovo, the Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade, and Signor Giuseppe Medici, chairman of Montedison.

This agreement has gone ahead in spite of pressures for Western countries to reduce their economic links because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Investments in Spain

Foreign investments in Spain reached 80,000m pesetas (about £54m) in 1979 compared with 56,880m pesetas in the previous year, the Spanish commerce ministry said in Madrid.

Union chief's plea

Mr Douglas Fraser, the United Autoworkers president, said in Detroit he will urge Chrysler's board to consider strongly a joint assembly venture with Mitsubishi of Japan, using a Chrysler plant in the United States.

Car exports issue

Mr Masayoshi Ohira, the Japanese Prime Minister has been told by Mr Naohiro Amaya, his deputy trade and industry minister, that the issue of increasing Japanese car exports to the United States must be settled before Mr Ohira's visit to Washington in May, government officials in Tokyo say.

Opel short time call

Adam Opel AG, the General Motors subsidiary in Frankfurt has asked its works council to approve two weeks of short-time working for some employees in April. Workers in its Russelsheim and Wasserloren plants will be affected.

Sweden's jobless fall

Sweden's unemployment fell in February to 82,000 from 84,000, both in January this year and February 1979, the Central Statistics Office said in Stockholm.

Viewdata drive to cover half of country's telephone subscribers

Post Office launches Prestel on wider market

The Post Office is planning to make its Prestel Viewdata information service available to half the telephone subscribers in Britain by the end of this year. The announcement by the Post Office yesterday comes in the wake of parliamentary concern over the content of "dirty books" guide pages on the service and on the eve of a big publicity campaign for the service.

Yesterday's announcement also revealed a significant difference between the Post Office policy on the content of the Prestel pages available in the United Kingdom and those available on the new international Prestel market trial.

Dr Alex Reid, Prestel director, reaffirmed that the recent incident of the "dirty books" pages (a guide to five Soho bookshops selling "dirty" mags, specialist mags, and erotic novels), which has since been withdrawn, had not caused the Post Office to have any second thoughts about its policy of complete neutrality on the service. "The Prestel pages are rather the reverse", he said.

"The information provider should be able to put up whatever he wishes, subject to the constraints of the law," he said. But this "common carrier" approach is not being carried over to the international Prestel service which has just been launched, Dr Reid revealed. Here the Post Office is "a competitive entrant in a competitive market" and is exercising quality control over the content of the pages.

At present there are 2,486 Prestel-equipped television sets in use, with access to 156,465 pages supplied by 138 "information providers". The service is available on a local-call basis to telephone subscribers in London, Birmingham and Nottingham, and today the service is being extended to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

By the end of this year, Dr Reid said, Prestel would be available to 13 million telephone users throughout the United Kingdom. This means that about half of those on the telephone will then be within local range of the service, and the number of sets in use could increase by "tens of thousands" during the year.

In the United Kingdom Prestel is being marketed both for business and for domestic use. A monochrome Prestel set costs £600-£700, a colour one £1,100 to £1,200, and an adapter for a conventional television set costs £500.

The international Prestel trial service, by contrast, is aimed solely at the business user. Companies such as ABC Travel Guide, the BBC, the Economist, IPC and Lloyds of London Press are supplying the information, and international firms such as BP, Hertz, IBM, ICL, Rank Xerox, Shell, Sony, Trust House Forte and Unilever are experimentally using it.

The international service gives these and other users in Sweden, West Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Australia, and the United States direct access to their offices in London. "We are anxious that this British technological lead should be turned into a commercial success", Dr Reid added.

Kenneth Owen

Forecasters agree on severe recession

By Caroline Atkinson

There is now a clear consensus among economic forecasters that Britain is heading for a severe recession this year, with high unemployment, a drop in output and continuing high inflation.

Cambridge Econometrics, in

one of the most recent forecasts, is the most gloomy of those featured in the table, with a drop of 3.4 per cent in output forecast this year.

One of the reasons for this is that their model follows the

spending measure of gdp, which was distorted seriously downwards last year. Forecasters such as the London Business School, who use the output measure, will automatically tend to a more optimistic view of economic output now.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

| | NIESR | LBS | HG | CE | STJ | P&D | Treasury |
|---|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|----------|
| (Feb) | (Feb) | (Mar) | (Mar) | (Feb) | (Mar) | (Mar) | (Nov) |
| Gross domestic product | -0.5 | -1.7 | -1.5 | -3.4 | -1.6 | -1.7 | -2.0 |
| Inflation | 15.8 | 17.7 | 17.6 | 18.6 | 16.5 | 17.6 | 14.0 |
| Unemployment (000) | 1,580* | 1,478 | 1,520 | 1,800 | 1,500 | 1,415 | n.a. |
| Consumer spending | 2.7 | -0.7 | -0.1 | -1.3 | -1.0 | -0.6 | 0.5 |
| Private investment inc house-building | -3.7 | -4.7 | 0.0 | -6.9 | -1.5 | -1.6 | -1.0 |
| Public investment inc house-building | -5.1 | -3.5 | -5.9 | -6.5 | -1.5 | -8.3 | -4.5 |
| Public authorities consumption | 1.750 | -0.2 | -0.7 | 0.0 | +0.2 | -1.6 | 0 |
| Stockbuilding (£m 1975) | 2.5 | 4.5 | 3.7 | -3.3 | -0.7 | 3.6 | 0 |
| Imports | 2.3 | 0.8 | 3.1 | -4.5 | +1.1 | -0.8 | -2.5 |
| Balance of payments deficit | -1,819 | 1,700 | -300 | -1,100 | -1,900 | -800 | -2,000 |
| PSBR (£m fiscal 1980-81) | 9,000 | 10,700 | 8,750 | 10,200 | 9,100 | 9,200 | 9 |
| Money supply (% change in Em3 fiscal 1980-81 2) | 9 | 8.8 | 7.0 | 10.8 | 1.3 | 10.2 | n.a. |

NIESR: National Institute of Economic and Social Research. LBS: London Business School. HG: Home Govt. CE: Cambridge Econometrics. STJ: St James Group; published in Economist. P & D: Phillips and Drew.

* fourth quarter 1980 on fourth quarter 1979. * fourth quarter 1980. * excluding oil. * gross fixed investment. * private fixed investment. * public corporation's fixed investment. * stockbuilding as % gdp. * second quarter 1981 on second quarter 1980. * PSBR is forecast to stay at about the same % of gdp in money terms as in 1979-80.

Forecasters for gdp components are in constant prices. The private forecasts assume policy changes. For details readers should refer to original sources. Categories in different forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in result also reflect differences in assumptions, model constructions and data at which work proceeded.

The month in which work was published is given in brackets. Forecasts, published by the Treasury twice-yearly: NIESR, CE and STJ four times a year; LBS three times a year, HG and P & D revise their forecasts every month.

UK groups after £400m Saudi deal

By John Huxley

Two British led groups are in the final stages of competing for a £400m contract to build the 16-mile Bahrain causeway. The project, which will link the island to the mainland of Saudi Arabia, has been under consideration for several years. Bids are due to be returned to Riyadh on June 1 this year. Potential contractors hope that work on what is regarded as the last of the present generation of big civil engineering contracts in the Middle East, will follow quickly.

Of the 42 consortia who sought pre-qualification last March, 22 have been selected by the Saudi government, working in consultation with World Bank officials in Washington.

Yesterday John Howard, the Kent-based civil engineering and building contractor, announced that it was leading a consortium comprising itself and Sir Alfred McAlpine, from Britain, Higdon 72 from Japan and Bristol Steel & Iron Works from the United States.

Among the other contenders is an all-British consortium comprising Costain, Taylor Woodrow and Redpath Dorman Long, which was involved recently in the Dubai dock project.

RDL had been part of another consortium, which included a subsidiary of Tarmac, the civil engineering and roadstone group.

According to Howard, who recently led a 16-man team in Saudi Arabia for two weeks, it would share the civil work with McAlpine, Higdon and Bristol Steel would be responsible for the steel bridges.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wisdom of reducing standard tax rates

From Lord Mansel

Sir, Powerful voices have been heard recently—indeed, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has urged the "lower rate" band of income tax. At present this band embraces the first £750 of taxable income, on which tax is levied at 25 per cent. May I be permitted to express a contrary view, namely that far from raising the rate of tax on the first few hundred pounds of taxable income to 20 per cent, the Chancellor should reduce it to 20 per cent or less.

Deductions (income tax plus earnings-related national insurance contribution) from relatively low earnings are already much more steeply progressive in Britain than in most other industrialised countries—a contributory factor to the well-known "poverty trap". Take the case of a part-time or juvenile worker in a month's tax when the new national insurance rates will have come into force but before any Budget adjustments to personal allowances will have taken effect—is earning £22.40 a week, at that point, such a wage would be free of any deductions—reasonably enough, one might think. However, suppose that this individual is offered the chance of working an additional half-hour a week, say, for an extra 50p. He or she would be extremely foolish to accept, since the con-

tributed tax and national insurance on the extra 50p would total £1.70, representing a marginal tax rate of 283 per cent, mainly as a result of the absence of "excess" relief on national insurance contributions at the lower end of the scale.

Were the lower rate abolished, the marginal rate would rise to 289 per cent. This is, of course, an extreme case. Nevertheless, even the marginal rate applicable slightly further up the wage scale of 31½ per cent (25 per cent lower rate tax plus 3½ per cent NIC) is inequitably high. An effective rate of 30½ per cent would be more still, and even more of a disincentive to extra effort.

Let the Chancellor reduce the lower rate from 25 per cent to 20 per cent, if necessary, an extreme case. Never the less, even the marginal rate of 30½ per cent would be more than the effect of leaving an extra 24p a week in the pockets of everyone paying tax at the standard rate or above. Should even this trifling sum be more than the Chancellor can spare, it could be recouped fairly painlessly by a very modest increase in the excise duty on alcohol and tobacco.

Yours faithfully,
MANSSEL
House of Lords
London SW1
March 7.

Privacy law

From the Director of the National Computing Centre
Sir, Mr P. C. Davidson's (March 3) was an interesting expression of what seems a growing concern about possible consequences for the free trade of a lack of legislation in the United Kingdom. This concern is expressed at a recent meeting of the National Computing Forum.

International trade in easy exchange of computer operating data between countries. This may be the case unless data protection is in those countries has privacy legislation satisfied that personal data is adequately protected. The National Computing Centre, in conjunction with national institutes in Germany, is a privacy problems in a European context and has recently submitted a report to a European Commission, which published shortly.

We are currently arranging a canvass of our members, 2,000 establishments in the data processing industry, to gauge the strength and nature of the concerns present in the United Kingdom and would welcome any suggestions of interest from readers.
D. R. FAIRBAIRN,
The National Computing Centre,
Oxford Road,
Manchester M1 7ED.

Economic benefits from CB radio

From Mrs P. Webster

Sir, In his letter today (March 4) Mr Bryant, of the Citizens Band Association, mentions the direct benefits of the introduction of citizens' band radio to this country. He appears to overlook a number of very important indirect benefits.

Studies in the United States have shown that drivers using citizens' band drive more slowly and avoid congestion and road blocks. They thus use up to 3 per cent less fuel than similar drivers without citizens' band. If all British drivers were to carry and use citizens' band, the savings in motor fuel would be phenomenal.

The use of citizens' band in the United States and a number of European countries has been shown to reduce the number of multiple collisions which occur in fog or falling snow (the initial collision still happens but other drivers, warned either directly or by other drivers carrying citizens' band, do not pile into it). Apart from the heartbreak and suffering caused by such accidents the quantifiable cost of a fatal acci-

dent has been estimated by the Road Research Laboratory as in excess of £50,000.

Motorists carrying citizens' band are far more likely to report any suspicious behaviour or vandalism which they see than they would be if they had to find a telephone. In effect, the introduction of citizens' band helps stretch our scarce police manpower.

The above are examples of direct economic benefits arising from the general use of citizens' band. We must also be aware of the many benefits which are not economic in nature, the relief of loneliness, citizens' band affords to the old, crippled or housebound; the increase in safety it offers to one's fellow driver as one makes a long journey.

I have driven many thousands of miles in the United States, and because of citizens' band, have enjoyed every minute. I wish Mr Bryant well in his campaign to see it legalized in this country.

Yours faithfully,
P. WEBSTER

The Old School,
Stratford,
Chichester,
Gloucestershire,
March 4.

From Signor Ernesto Campagnoli

Sir, In today's Business (March 4), Mr J. M. Br. estimates that C.B. radio in Britain could become a market. I disagree. My own C.B. experience leads me to believe that when C.B. is introduced in Britain the market will be small (over 5% of the community about 1% time).

This is in addition to indirect economic effect general saving of money by C.B. equipped (United States Federal survey this may be as 3 per cent) and the reduction of accidents (cost the community about 1% time).

Yours faithfully,
ERNESTO CAMPAGNOLI
Hotel Regina Carlton,
Rome,
Italy,
March 4.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Juggling with the banking figures

Financial markets impatiently awaiting the juggling act were disappointed that yesterday's banking figures did not give them anything to get their teeth into.

That does not mean that there is nothing encouraging that can be drawn from the figures. The authorities' preliminary estimate is that they point to a rise in sterling M3 of around 0.5 per cent, a respectable enough figure in itself and one that could bring the annualized rate of growth back to the 7-11 per cent target range.

What is more, if the Bank of England's newly introduced seasonal adjustment for certificates of deposit were included retrospectively, an underlying rate of money growth comfortably inside the upper end of the target could be drawn out of the figures.

Midland Bank cash still coming in

Midland Bank is steadily building up a neat pile of cash for its expected expansion over the next few years. Yesterday it announced the sale for £6.4m of cash and shares of Thomas Cook's sterling travelling cheques business, itself a good deal since Midland only paid £1.0m for the whole of Thomas Cook when it bought out the other consortium owners two years ago.

In addition to the wish of putting together major travellers' cheques club able to challenge the world-wide domination of American Express—10 per cent of this currently highly profitable business against Cook's 10 per cent—the Midland move seems part of broader strategy of building up cash to finance in foreign markets, especially in the United States.

Over the past 12 months, since February 79, Midland has seemed to be clearing its decks for a major acquisition by selling various assets. The Bland Payne insurance broking side was the first to go, then a stake in Standard Chartered and Midland has further raised a \$125m Eurodollar in the sale of parts of the travellers' cheques business may be modest by comparison with the rest. But altogether the Midland II have raised cash of over £200m and a market is awaiting news on how this will be redeployed.

Entry into the United States financial market is by no means cheap. But it is still one of the few widely open to foreign bank acquisitions and entry into it has become essential because of the need for a dollar base.

White Midland dithers about its United States strategy, it could do worse than look at the example being set by Heron Corporation's decision to buy the Pima Savings and Loan Association in Arizona. For one thing it is a \$23.5m cash (which may be adjusted for the light of this year's profits). Heron is giving values the S & L at around 10 times 1979 earnings compared with p/e ratios of 15 on for double this figure British banks have been stamping up for United States banks and financial institutions along with fifty goodwill elements in the bargain.

And unlike the extravagant prices United States banks are commanding now they are a sharply rising earnings trend, S & L's have been under rather a cloud recently as a result of a large extent on floating rate money at a time when rising United States interest rates must have made much of their lending barely profitable.

For Heron the Pima deal is the first significant step in its declared aim of increasing United States exposure now that most of a United Kingdom interests are close to maturity and with a \$25m loan facility ranged last year finance, as always, will be the last of Heron's worries. While S & L's are not the big cash flow producers Heron

hopes to see from its anticipated push into the North American natural resources scene, they do have a backbone of cheap retail profits and profits are transformed when interest rates start to fall. And Heron is plainly hoping to use the S & L base as a bridgehead for a more aggressive move into the United States.

De Beers Lacklustre showing

After three very good years De Beers faces a leaner time in 1980, with the 1979 figures pointing to rather more than just a slowdown in growth. After-tax profits are virtually static at R751m, but the tell-tale signs are in the diamond account where profits slipped nearly a fifth to R831m while the value of diamonds on hand went up from R256m to R409m.

The sharp fall in De Beers' cash balances from R1,275m to R975m also hints at the need to buy and finance more stocks, though part of the difference is attributable to share purchases, including a small part of the Consolidated Gold Fields adventure.

On the diamond side, the figures suggest that Central Selling Organisation sales actually fell in the second half, after expanding by just 2 per cent in rand terms in the first six months. High interest rates have squeezed trade stocks, although for the moment retail sales are holding up.

The 1979 figures also show that De Beers is deploying more cash in general investments. The market value of listed investments rose sharply from R817m to R1,875m. Part of this is due to the Minorco-Charter Anglo American reorganization, but the increase in dividend and investment income from R234m to R312m highlights the value of this source of income when diamonds are not performing so well, which has helped keep the dividend on a rising trend up from a total of 65 to 72.5 cents, at which the shares yield 6.1 per cent at yesterday's price of \$9.50, even though earnings per share are only level pegging with 1978 at 205.7 cents.

Sedgwick Forbes After the merger

Sedgwick Forbes and Bland Payne could hardly have envisaged a harsher business environment in which to wrestle with the logistics of melding their operations to form Britain's biggest insurance broking group.

So in the event a mere 7 per cent profit fall to £47.4m for the combined group, is no mean achievement. The shares responded accordingly yesterday with a 4p rise to 96p where a yield of 7.4 per cent and p/e ratio of 8.4 reflect a slight discount to the sector average which is more than accounted for by takeover excitement at C. I. Bowring.

In common with its rivals, Sedgwick has had to struggle with the adverse effect of sterling's strength on dollar premiums—which clipped £5m from the pre-tax total—and lower premium rates across the board, although higher interest rates received on clients' money in transit has eased the pressure. At the same time Sedgwick has been a net loser of the current realignment of transatlantic links mainly through Marsh & McLennan switching its favours towards Bowring.

Significantly, however, Sedgwick has managed to contain the expense ratio to 66 per cent, a rise of only six points on the combined total for the previous year, and merger benefits should reduce it further still in the current year.

Prospects for this year seem only faintly more hopeful—Sedgwick claims to have seen some sign of rates hardening in aviation business at least—but the group looks particularly well-placed to recover some American business if Marsh & McLennan's bid for Bowring fails.

Meanwhile, as if to rub salt in Bowring's wounds, Sedgwick claims its talks on premium pooling with the United States group Alexander & Alexander are still progressing smoothly. The current year target must be for a recovery to around £52m whatever the outcome of transatlantic reshuffling and Sedgwick could soon regain the premium rating previously enjoyed by its respective parts.

Canada's economy: Liberals tread warily

Ottawa

Nobody in Canada is taking bets on what direction economic policy will take under Mr. Pierre Trudeau, the Liberal Prime Minister, elected last month to lead the nation once more.

The Liberals made few promises in the campaign leading up to the February 18 election that brought them back to power after only nine months in opposition to Mr. Joe Clark's Conservative minority government.

Mr. Trudeau carefully avoided assuming any strong policy positions.

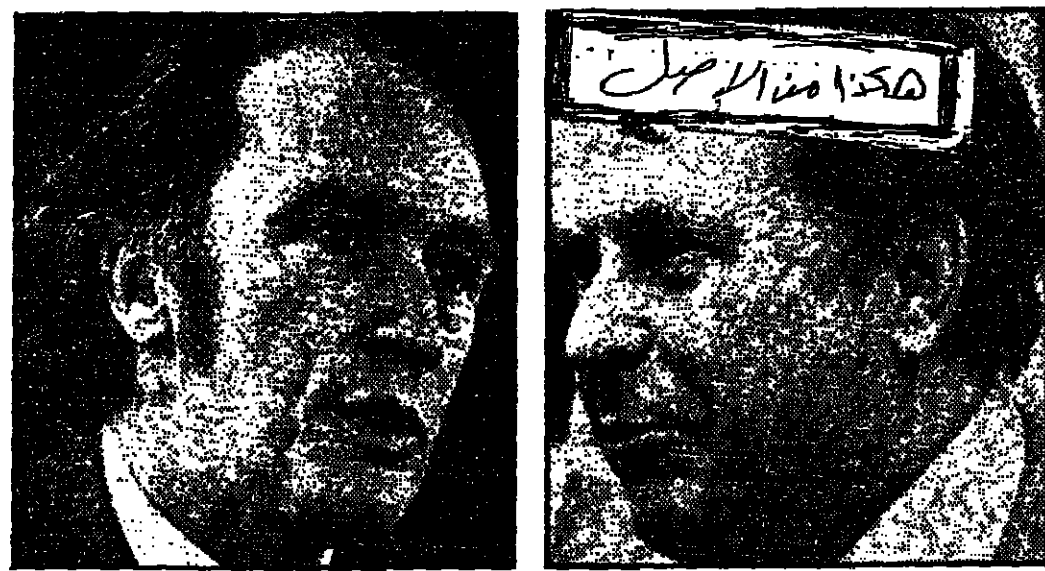
He contented himself with attacking Mr. Clark's record as prime minister, while condemning the Tories for their budget proposal to more than double the domestic price of crude oil and raise the petrol excise tax from seven cents to 25.

It was the defeat of the Tory budget on December 13 that precipitated the election.

Mr. Trudeau had no need to do more. Mr. Clark tried the bitter-medicine approach to Canada's economic ailments and the need for energy conservation and was ejected from office for his pains.

The Prime Minister has appointed to the key post of finance minister Mr. Allan Rock, a cautious and politically shrewd Cape Breton Scot, who is also deputy prime minister.

In his candour is showing in his first weeks in office. He is, for the moment, keeping his own counsel on future policies. Predictably, he said that he has no intention of reintroducing a petrol excise tax increase, which died with the Conservative budget, and he has indicated that a Liberal campaign



Mr. Trudeau and Mr. MacEachen: treading warily in an economic minefield.

commitment to increase old age pension supplements by \$C35 a month—one of the few promises the party made—will be "very much on my mind".

On taking office Mr. MacEachen said he would introduce a new budget as soon as possible after parliament reconvenes on April 14 and would not necessarily wait until an oil pricing agreement has been reached with the main producing province, Alberta.

The price of oil is one of the most controversial issues in Canadian politics. The present domestic price is \$C14.75 a barrel compared with a world price of around \$C35.

The Tories proposed to increase this in stages to

\$C32.25 a barrel over the next four years under an agreement with Alberta which had quite recently reached the signing stage when Mr. Clark's government was defeated.

Mr. Peter Lougheed, the Conservative Premier of Alberta, has stated that he will not accept less net benefit under any pricing agreement with the Liberals in Ottawa than he would have received had the Tories remained in office.

So the new Trudeau Government may in fact be resigned to increases more or less on the scale that its predecessor had agreed.

Energy minister Mr. Marc Lalonde says that the Government is pledged only to keep

this year's increase below the \$C4 a barrel planned by the Clark Government. It has made no promises for future years. The present federal-provincial pricing agreement expires on June 30.

The central government will have to proceed warily with any move to accommodate Alberta, given the fierce determination of the consuming provinces, led by industrial Ontario, to keep oil prices down.

Another problem which Mr. MacEachen faces, and which may prove just as explosive in its own way as the energy pricing question, is the crisis in housing brought about by Canada's record mortgage interest rates, now touching 15 per cent.

Thousands of Canadians whose mortgages are up for renegotiation this year and who are unable or unwilling to pay the higher costs are leaving their homes and taking accommodation elsewhere.

The Trudeau Government may be forced to bring in a variation of the Conservative plan to give home owners an income tax credit against mortgage interest payments and municipal taxes.

The Canadian economy is ticking over, very sluggishly at the moment and unemployment is running at a seasonally adjusted rate of between 7 and 8 per cent, which means that something like a million Canadians are out of work.

But far from advocating a programme of pump-priming to revive the sluggish economy and put Canadians back to work, the newly installed government appears wedded to the idea of fiscal restraint.

At the same time neither Mr. Trudeau nor Mr. MacEachen is as obsessed with the need to cut the government's budgetary deficit, currently \$11,800m, as the Conservatives were. The finance minister said recently he was concerned but not "consumed" by the size of the deficit.

The Liberals' first budget is unlikely to offer any major tax concessions or any sufficient creation programmes to take up the slack in the economy. But neither is the new government likely to propose any very strict, long-range measures for putting Canada's economic house in order.

John Best

Could the British follow Japan's investment lead?

Both sides in the continuing argument over the monetarist approach to economic management seem to be missing several essential points.

Keynesianism was a demand-expanding, wealth-sharing system. It did not create wealth unless there was spare capacity in the form of idle machinery and unemployment. As a solution to large-scale unemployment, Keynesianism succeeded for over a generation; but as many economists have remarked, Keynes had little to say on the subject of economic growth, although his followers have developed a touching faith in the advantages of a high pressure of demand.

Monetarism is a demand-constricting, inflation-limiting device. It, too, does not create wealth of itself; the market-economy arguments often associated with monetarism go back to Adam Smith.

A Keynesian, of course, might claim that his philosophy was wealth-creating. He would argue that a high expansion of money supply would lower interest rates and produce an investment boom and subsequent growth. Yet Keynesian policies, in practice, never worked like that.

Government economic stimulation in Anglo-Saxon economies anyway, has always been demand management, and monetarism is only the constriction side of the Keynesian

coin. Yet the high interest rates associated with "tight money" do not simply limit demand; they help choke some investment projects, spread bankruptcies and shut-downs, and reduce economic supply.

British and American governments do not recognize the possibility (let alone accept the policy) of limiting demand-producing consumption credit while increasing supply-expanding investment credit. Successful foreign governments do just that. Table 2 shows the expansion in credit in the Japanese economy during recent years. Investment credit to industry—already running at an astounding 15 to 18 per cent of gross domestic product annually—continues to increase apace; consumer credit and other credit is constrained.

The reason for the Japanese and West German economic miracles is that their financial system constrains the expansion of inflationary circulating consumption credit while stimulating the expansion of investment credit. At this stage it may be premature to ask that British governments should please copy, but at least they could attempt to understand.

In an article in *The Times* (written with my co-author, John Carrington) on July 17, 1976, it was pointed out that the big difference in business climate between Britain and Japan was the cash-flow cost of capital. In both countries, businessmen are in business to make money, but financial conditions for investment are more favourable in Japan.

The reason for high levels of investment credit in Japan, borrowing in Japan is that businessmen can get bank loans at 7 per cent repayment rates or so, which justifies many projects.

In Japan, the capital is not generally repaid, so repayment rates are lower.

In the United Kingdom, where two-year loans are the norm and (say) 20 per cent the interest rate on loans, businessmen need to earn 65 per cent on investment projects to make money and clear cash-flow pay-

ments on time, and therefore few projects are justified.

The monetarist and neo-classical economists who argue for free market forces to restore the viability of United Kingdom industry, are therefore failing to understand the reality. If one does not have to be a prophet to predict which companies will survive and grow and which will collapse into decline, the Japanese industry is not competing on equal terms with British companies; the former has access to cheap expansion funds, the latter does not. A free market in this case collapses the economy with the less competitive financial-industrial structure.

A proper understanding of the situation points the way to remedial action. It seems that, in all developed economies, the level of investment credit borrowing is inversely proportional to the cash-flow cost of capital. The reason appears to be that bankers calculate cash-flow cover on loans, and a reduction in the cash-flow cost of a loan causes a proportionate increase in the total loan available; a lower repayment justifies a larger loan at the same level of repayment.

Such a policy may seem difficult due to the complex interaction of flows of finance in an economy, for money initially supplied for one purpose may flow through to another.

The rigour of company capital accounts may well ensure that an expansion of investment credit has its initial result in an increase in investment, but some of this money will inevitably find its way into the pockets of those workers who insulate the investment. (Meanwhile, these investments should have increased supply prior to consumer demand.)

Investment expenditure also seems to involve firm-to-firm payments, which selectively increase business saving and investment in virtuous cycles of growth. Similarly an increase in wages may in some cases produce a boom in consumer

TABLE 2
Annual repayment rates for 20% loans, and loan demand index for UK

| Repayment loan years | Repayment rates (as % index* of orig. loan) | Demand index* |
|----------------------|---|---------------|
| 1 | 120 | |
| 2 | 85.44 | 100 |
| 3 | 47.48 | 139.9 |
| 4 | 38.52 | 189.9 |
| 5 | 33.42 | 195.8 |
| 6 | 30.07 | 217.6 |
| 7 | 27.74 | 235.9 |
| 8 | 26.08 | 251.1 |
| 9 | 24.81 | 263.8 |
| 10 | 23.85 | 274.4 |
| 11 | 23.11 | 285.2 |
| 12 | 22.59 | 290.5 |
| 13 | 22.06 | 296.6 |
| 14 | 21.69 | 301.7 |

* Calculated for the United Kingdom on the assumption that average present bank lending to industry has a period of two years and an interest rate of 20%.

The important change, however, should be in the actions of the United Kingdom Government, for the secret of rapid economic development is to increase the ratio of financial resources going to the sources of economic supply—to industrial and infrastructure investment—while limiting the growth of finance to the principal sources of consumption demand.

Such a policy may seem difficult due to the complex interaction of flows of finance in an economy, for money initially supplied for one purpose may flow through to another.

The rigour of company capital accounts may well ensure that an expansion of investment credit has its initial result in an increase in investment, but some of this money will inevitably find its way into the pockets of those workers who insulate the investment. (Meanwhile, these investments should have increased supply prior to consumer demand.)

Investment expenditure also seems to involve firm-to-firm payments, which selectively increase business saving and investment in virtuous cycles of growth. Similarly an increase in wages may in some cases produce a boom in consumer

demand for certain products, and thus finance some additional investment in their production.

Yet simply because an increase in financial resources in certain sectors produces some side-effects, is no reason to believe that the final consequences of these policies are similar. If financial resources are devoted to investment in the first instance, and this produces a subsequent boom in consumer demand, it seems entirely likely that the investment expenditure will exceed the later consumption finance created.

Hence the accent of such a policy is on expansion first, and only produces some possible demand before resources are in place to cope with it—this policy produces inflation first, and perhaps some investment later. (If the consumers buy imports, then the policy will not even produce domestic investment later.)

If governments discriminate in allowing investment credit to expand while limiting the growth of money supply to consumers, then growth can be increased and inflation reduced due to such a policy.

The Government should at least consider this policy: it represents a modification, not an abandonment, of their monetarist beliefs. Holds out hope of economic growth where warranted, and could help create a British investment boom despite the depressed state of United Kingdom industry.

George Edwards

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The author has also written, with John Carrington, *Financing International Investment* published by Macmillan, 1979. A second book, *Reversing Economic Decline* (also co-authored with John Carrington) is due to be published by Macmillan in August.

Business Diary: Bob a job • Is Lord Beswick grounded?

It is nice to see Bob Scholey along steel again. Scholey, chief executive of the British Steel Corporation, has not done much in that line over the past few weeks, but at last he has his chance.

This comes not through an aid to the BSC strike, but through Scholey's appointment to the board of British Iron and Steel Corporation, a big customer of BSC.

Bridon, the quoted private company and BSC, the state corporation, are joint owners of the Templeborough rolling mill. The latter is a steelworks and there are three BSC en, Scholey included, on the board.

Templeborough, which sends out four tenths of its produc-

tion to Bridon, is again turning out steel. Two weeks ago the men there voted to return to work.

It is now customary for a BSC man to sit on the Bridon board. Until now it has been David Waterstone, a BSC board director. It is ironic that at a time when the state corporation is embroiled upon a vast dispute with its workforce over the private enterprise principles of the industry Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, BSC should put its chief executive on the board of a private company.

Scholey can have useful chats with Bridon chief executive Peter Fenwick-Smith. Bridon's pre-tax profits rose from £11.6m to £17.1m in 1978, despite the lorry drivers' strike. Chairman Harry Smith had great hopes for 1979-80.

One benefit of the Robert Mugabe landslide and of the political stability that is presumed to follow will be a boost for Zimbabwe's custard industry.

Hugh Bidwell (right), chairman of United Kingdom custard manufacturers Pearce Duffy, told me yesterday that he had just returned from Kenya where he had been looking at the chances of starting a factory there. Once he found out I had just been to Zimbabwe he asked me more questions than I asked him, and said he thought he would nip over to Salisbury just in case he missed making enquiries in good time.

Bidwell is interested in making the stuff in the Dark Continent because Africa and the Middle East are big custard markets. Between a fifth and



a third of Pearce Duffy turnover comes from exports. The Arabs, particularly the Saudis, eat custard during Ramadan and equate it with this festival just as we do Christmas with turkey or plum pudding.

Nearer home, Bidwell is busy organizing next month's annual conference of the Food Manufacturers' Federation. It is entitled *Food for Growth*.

towards Europe rather than the United States.

So what of the future for the former Franz Josef, ex-Labour and Co-op MP and, before that, BOAC pilot?

Some people in the British aircraft industry think he would make a good, solid chairman of Airbus Industrie, into which he took British Aerospace with a 20 per cent share.

The present chairman is a part-timer Franz Josef Strauss, who would like to be full-time Chancellor of West Germany. There is a feeling that however Strauss does in the election, Airbus needs a full-timer.

In the meantime, Lord Beswick says he intends to frequent the Lords more than in the past. "It may look as if they are asleep, but they are taking sense at the same time," he said yesterday.

The appeal by the Trades Union Congress for cuts in some EEC farm prices and freeze on the rest is embarrassingly at odds with the policy of one of its affiliated unions. The National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers has been campaigning for months for a share for its members of any increase in farmers' incomes that results from EEC price changes.

But if farmers' incomes were frozen or cut, as the TUC suggests, there would be nothing for farmers to share with their employees who are members of the NUAAW. What is even more embarrassing is that the NUAAW is about to consider claiming an interim wage rise on the grounds that the 21 per cent increase won last year has been eroded by inflation.

Jack Boddy, general secretary of the NUAAW, had little to say yesterday about a policy which appears to commit his union to asking farmers to pay higher wages while trying to deny them the resources for doing so.

He answered the question of whether his union supported the TUC stance by saying that the NUAAW had always opposed British membership of the EEC. Asked about his part in the debate of the general council in which the TUC decided to press for cuts and freezes, he said: "I made no comment."

Boddy added: "We would oppose any cuts in prices if the workers suffered as a result." The union's dilemma will be debated when its executive meets at the end of the month.

Ross Davies

Pitfalls of the shorter working week

A steady trickle of clauses for a shorter working week contained in recent pay agreements shows that the trade unions' official campaign to reduce the standard week of manual workers from 40 hours to 35 hours is having an effect.

Even so, the reductions are far from the watershed for which Mr. Terence Duffy, president of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, hoped when he led the bitter dispute that disrupted industry for 10 weeks on this score last year.

For a start other unions have followed the engineers' example of settling for a staged reduction in hours with a delay in implementation. An analysis by Incomes Data Services of 14 agreements concluded in the last six months and incorporating shorter hours shows that most provide for a delay.

In some agreements the postponement is relatively short—within, say, six months. In others the period between agreement and implementation is much longer, as with the engineers. Their agreement for a cut in the working week to 39 hours will not be implemented until November, 1981.

A delay in implementation not only allows time for the details to be negotiated depending on local conditions (there is little point in working 15 minutes less a day only to spend it waiting for public transport); but it also gives employers a chance to reorganise work to offset the cost.

However, reductions on such a small scale are unlikely to

make any meaningful contribution to the TUC's aim of providing more jobs. Equally they are probably not sufficient to justify the fears expressed by employers that overtime costs and hence production costs would soar.

When the debate was at its height last year the Confederation of British Industry calculated that if the 35-hour week had been introduced during the 1978-79 pay round it would have added between 5 and 71 per cent to retail prices.

It is highly unlikely that the modest reductions incorporated in recent agreements will have anything like such sweeping consequences. Moreover, in delaying the implementation, both sides are gambling that a resumption of economic growth will dilute the effects.

The disadvantages of the step-by-step reduction in hours is that cumbersome supervisory machinery has to be set up to change work patterns by tiny amounts.

The arrangements for such negotiations are often exceedingly rusty. There have been only two other periods of free collective bargaining since 1968 and during most of the intervening period employers were able to block change on hours simply by stating that it would contravene government policy.

There is a wide range of options in arranging even quite small cuts. The Post Office has more experience than most of the range that can result. A special review enabled it to drop the working hours for its engineers to 37½ per week in Decem-

ber, 1978, provided there was no extra cost.

By the time all the local agreements had been finalized a whole range of practices had come into operation. These included 15 minutes late starting and early finishing; 40 per cent of staff on a ninety-four-hour fortnight; at any one time everyone having one day off in 15.

Not surprisingly there were problems in the early stages and both sides were inundated with complaints. Over recent months, according to the Post Office Engineering Union, the new systems have begun to work better. But the Post Office's initial difficulties may discourage other employers from following its example.

A much easier option for all concerned is that of longer holidays. The CBI's pay database recorded in January that nearly 40 per cent of new settlements contained clauses allowing longer holidays and that the trend was on the increase.

Unfortunately for the TUC's resolution, such a move is even less likely to result in more employment than a staged introduction of a shorter week. For, as emergency three-day working in the winter of 1973-74 and the present steel strike shows, industry can make remarkable adjustments to abnormal conditions, over a short period. As a result, most employers will be able to compensate for longer holidays without taking on extra staff.

Patricia Tiedall



Bob Scholey, chief executive of the British Steel Corporation, and a woman inaugurate the V & A tonight. Val Kidd (left) and Peterley are two of the men preparing the exhibition and were seen at a Japanese ceremonial brew-up by Birch (right), resident master of the Urusenke Tea Foundation.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Interest rate fears hit gold shares

The market adopted a cautious approach ahead of the banking figures yesterday, although the general tone was firm.

Gold continued to mark time, with some small gains, but trading was described as fairly light. Equities, too, were brighter, encouraged by reports that the steel talks at BSC were making some progress, although some of the more specialised sectors continued to take a beating.

Typical was mining, where the lower gold price resulting from fears of high worldwide interest rates sent gold shares into retreat. Eighteen of the 20 gold shares had an adverse effect on commodity markets which have influenced the recent confidence seen in precious metals issues.

Equities generally were a little firmer, reflecting an optimistic approach by the jobbers who decided to mark prices higher.

This optimism, however, failed to reach the investors who chose to wait on the sidelines until the budget is out of the way.

The announcement of the banking figures or interest-bearing liabilities (IBELs) proved to be more or less on target. Economists say the figures indicated that money supply, being raised by 1.5 per cent to 1 per cent last month.

But, although this caused the market to breathe a sigh of relief, only small buying encountered as the prices were marked higher this soon petered out.

This was evident in gilts, where some small two-way trade pushed prices 1/8 higher, in long, before settling at 100 1/8, only 1/8 stronger. Shorts encountered some activity after the announcement, but this also fizzled out, leaving rises of

around £3/16 on the day.

The tone was also generally firmer elsewhere in after hours which helped the FT Index to finish at the top with a rise of 3.3 at 455.6.

Leading industrials were mostly firmer for choice, but turnover remained fairly thin. Unilever gained 4p to 440p, and ICI at 372p, Glaxo at 248p and Becton at 125p, all added 2p.

Most attention was focused on

Stockbroking firms, where the new All England Leasing and Croquet debentures at £11,500 for a pair of seats for five years to 1985 look cheap given future rising costs. Against this year's normal booking price of £1,850 for a pair it might look expensive, but then the price for 1980 is almost five years old.

gold shares, where the fall of \$17 to \$568.50 in the bullion price again undermined confidence. The London mining and engineering shares were the worst hit, with Con. Gold tumbling 79p to 498p.

RTZ shed 10 p to 385p and despite full-year figures on target, De Beers shed 50 cents to 138 1/2. The heavier-priced gold shares were also hit with West Driefontein 5 1/2 off at 168, Randfontein 5 1/2 to 565 1/2, Anglo American 5 1/2 to 576 1/2 and F. S. Geduld 5 1/2 to 571 1/2. Among the cheaper-priced shares, UCI fell 1/2 to 51 1/2, Middle Wits 16p to 460p and Stilfontein 5 1/2 to 51 1/2.

"Aussies" also came in for a further pounding following their sharp setback earlier in the week in Sydney with Western Mining 6p off at 213p, MIM Holdings 5p lower at 240p and Otter eased 2p to 81p.

Other gold shares closed after their recent score over an increase in PFI with Shell 6p up at 382p and Ultramar 8p stronger at 498p. But BP, with

figures due out tomorrow remained nervous sliding 4p to 360p.

Shares of Viking returned from suspension after a counter-bidder against Deminex of Germany, Sun Co. are bidding 400p a share, plus a royalty payment, which pushed the price 90p higher at 1,020p. Lasso improved 10p to 452p, accompanied by Siebens up 30p at 568p and Tricentral 6p to 288p.

Reports that the market may well see a fall in MLR announced in the Budget gave a lift to property shares which have been badly neglected. Land Securities advanced 9p to 302p, Bradford Property 3p to 180p, still on the back of press comment while MEPC at 204p and Haslemere at 308p both showed rises of 6p on small persistent buying.

Among companies reporting figures, Ductile Steels rose 3p to 93p and J. Bibby were 2p higher at 160p but Johnson Group Cleaners slipped 4p to 172p.

Parker Knoll continued to reflect its recent trading statement, advancing a further 12p to 122p, while Turner & Newall, reporting today, climbed 4p to 126p.

Furness Withy expanded 5p to 371p in shipping ahead of

the formal offer document from C. Y. Tung expected today.

British Sugar jumped 9p to 170p on the back of the announcement that S. & W. Bestford, itself unchanged at 153p, had taken a near 10 per cent stake. But the board of S. & W. Bestford were at pains to point out that this was not the prelude to a full-scale bid.

Speculative interest also surrounded Status Discount, up 4p at 70p, on hopes that MFI was about to bid.

Shares of Johnson Matthey tumbled 14p to 281p, coinciding with the latest fall in the price of most precious metals on the commodity market.

Furniture group, B. Ferleman called in the receivers yesterday immediately suspended the shares at 16p.

In electrical, Rascal continued to tread the thin line as the share slipped 2p to 209p. This at which the cash alternative for Decca holders becomes more attractive than the shares offered by Rascal. Meanwhile, Decca resumed 3p to 610p at the "A" shed 1p to 511p. BSK rose 1p to 34p ahead of figures due this week which are expected to show a heavy downturn in profits and a possible cut in the dividend.

Mr. Muggable's moderate approach to his new duties con-

tinues to inspire Rhodesian Bonds where the Southern Rhodesia 2 1/2 per cent, 6370, climbed 53 to 5135, while the 4 1/2 per cent, 67-92, at 577 and the 6 per cent, 78-81, at 5147 held steady.

The better-than-expected figures from insurance brokers Sedgwick Forbes Bland Payne,

Full-year profits from Tricentral on Thursday week should be £2.2m, even more given the aggressive way it has been playing the spot oil market recently. So it is selling on 13 times earnings prospectively at 288p and that looks set to halve in 1980 as the Thistle Field builds up, while the group's acquisitive ambitions are underlined by its plans for a North American listing.

4p up at 96p, provided a firm feature for the rest of the sector. Other notables included C. E. Heath, up 2p to 200p and T. W. Shell, up by a similar amount at 133p.

Equity turnover on March 10 was £90,774m (16,024 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, up, while the group's acquisitive ambitions are underlined by its plans for a North American listing.

Consolidated Gold Fields, Burmah and Ultramar.

Latest results

| Company | Sales | Profits | Earnings | Div | Pay | Year's |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------|-------------|
| or £m | £m | £m | per share | pence | pence | total |
| J. Bibby & Sons (F) | 188.0 (167.0) | 9,718,400 | 32.7 (25.8) | 4.25 (2.26) | — | 6.25 (3.25) |
| De Beers Cons Mm (F) | — | 110.6 (115.6) | 205.7 (205.0) | 52.5 (44.0b) | 31.3 | 72.5 (65.0) |
| De Beers Ind (F) | — | 17.9 (14.4b) | 114.6 (88.8) | 65.0 (—) | 25.5 | 110 (82.5) |
| Ductile Steel (F) | 37.38 (33.74) | 2.37 (1.85) | — | 2.12 (2.12) | 2.5 | — (7.0) |
| W. F. Shaw (F) | 13.8 (12.4) | 25.4 (21.4) | 6.8 (5.8) | 6.8 (5.8) | — | 9.8 (8.34) |
| Johnson Grp (F) | 35.2 (26.5) | 4.0 (3.4) | 27.8 (21.2) | 4.4 (3.5) | 10.4 | 6.2 (5.0) |
| Pentos (F) | 70.3 (54.3) | 4.0 (4.0) | 7.8 (7.55) | 2.6 (1.7) | 1.7 | 4.0 (2.51) |
| Rossmid Inv (F) | 128.1 (124.1) | 0.34 (0.27) | 5.11 (4.61) | 3.48 (2.5) | 30.4 | 5.5 (4.6) |
| Sedgwick Forbes Bland Payne | — | — | — | 5.0 (2.7) | — | — |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net, a, adjusted for scrip; b, rand & cents.

Briefly

KODE BOARD CONFIDENT: Immediate prospects for the international market are clouded by the uncertainty economic climate, but the board "has sufficient confidence in the future of the market to maintain investment policies and thus ensure further growth". Chairman Mr. W. J. Underwood said in his annual statement. This confidence is reinforced by an increase in the order book compared with a year ago, he says.

Prudential Pension: In January, 1980, funds under management passed the £50m mark and at February 20 they stood at £52.7m. During the twelve months to December 19, 1979, the value of the funds increased from £39.4m to £48.5m.

YEARLING BONDS: The London Borough of Camden is raising £1m by an issue of 16 per cent bonds, repayable at 100 on March 18, 1981. The GLC is raising £2.5m by an issue of 16 1/2 per cent bonds, March 18, 1981.

Rea Brothers, the merchant bankers, report group profit for 1979 (after all expenses and current tax and after making a transfer to inner reserves) rose from £451,000 to £601,000. The total gross dividend is being raised from 2.4p to 2.85p and one-for-three scrip issue is proposed.

FURNESS, WITBY: Dolphin Investments has acquired 25,250 shares at 37p and 7,500 shares at 37p, making a holding of 2.81m shares (10.32 per cent) of the company. The company has 8,750 shares at 37p and 2,500 shares at 37p, making a holding of 959,882 shares (3.58 per cent).

Norfolk Capital: Mr. Maxwell Johnson's Norfolk Capital Group has exchanged contracts for the sale of the 59-room Erns Hotel in London for just over £700,000. The buyer is the private group, Chrysanthe which recently bought five London hotels from Gram Metropollitan.

Hamblin: A statement is expected at the end of this week from the small brick-making group, Hamblin, whose shares were suspended at a 12-month period which could materially change the business. Chairman Mr. Graham Ferguson Lacey is expected to be injected with energy-related assets into the company where he has a near 53 per cent stake.

Tomkinson's Carpets: Mrs. Margaret Johnson Tomkinson is interested in 212,000 ordinary shares of Tomkinson's Carpets, being 7.46 per cent of the issued capital. The holding of the late Eric F. Tomkinson of 162,000 shares (5.7 per cent) was transferred in total to Mrs. J. Tomkinson, who formerly held 50,000 shares.

Hoover: "We view the prospects for 1980 with cautious optimism. We have new products to introduce to the market in 1980 and we are determined to use all our marketing skills to combat competition. If we can avoid supply interruptions in the market and create a sounder base for the future prosperity of the company and all its employees," Mr. R. Rawson, chairman of Hoover, in his annual report.

Options

Business remained at low levels among traded options yesterday where total contracts fell from 530 to 483. Oil shares held the spotlight, boosted by the forthcoming full-year figures from BP tomorrow. BP itself accounted for 101 contracts of which the April 400p series proved popular as the share price dipped 4p to 360p. Shell attracted 121 contracts which were fairly well spread throughout the list.

Traditional options also encountered dull conditions with a "put" being arranged in Ultramar and "doubles" in Siebens, John Brown, Town & City, Burmah, BP, Coral, Charterhall, Amal Estates and UDI.

Pentos profits static at £4m



Mr. T. A. Maher, chairman of Pentos.

Too many publishers and too many books cost Pentos most of its profits growth last year.

The worst performance came in the mass market children's books division, which is being reduced by about a fifth, and the publishing division did little more than break even.

Chairman Mr. Terence Maher says that it will probably take two years to get the division back on an even keel.

The increase in interest charges, coupled with stepped-up borrowings, also took a toll and 1979 pretax profits rose only marginally from £4m to £4.08m on sales up £15m to £7.1m.

The bookselling side is continuing to improve and the number of outlets is likely to increase from 34 shops to over 100. However, start-up costs held profits growth from this side down to around 12 per cent.

The garden and leisure side,

which also improved its performance and the construction side also turned in record results.

Pentos has recovered £750,000 from the directors and shareholders of recently taken over Caplan after a failure to achieve forecast profit levels and the over-statement of assets in prior years. The group is now involved in talks with the advisers to the deal and expects a further substantial payment.

Borrowings at the end of 1979 were about £11m—an increase of £5.5m on the previous period—of which some £2m was used in the consolidation of Caplan.

The current year has started reasonably well in all divisions and Mr. Maher underlined his confidence by raising the full year dividend by 60 per cent to 5.75p gross.

The shares, unchanged at 61p yesterday, are posted for trading on March 13. Dealings on the London Stock Exchange will continue to be in shares of International Thomson Organisation, to which are attached the shares of Thomson British Holdings.

Cement-Roadstone up 33 pc

International

Cement-Roadstone Holdings, leading Irish suppliers of building materials with interests in the United Kingdom and overseas, have announced a 33 per cent increase in pretax profits from IR£18.1m to IR£24.1m for the year to end-December 1979.

This record result—more than double the 1976 profit—was achieved on group sales up 49 per cent from IR£173.4m to IR£258.3m.

No profit after tax was IR£2.3m—a rise of 38 per cent. Earnings per share, taking into account the issues of share capital in 1979, increased by

16 per cent from 11.87p to 13.74p.

The board is recommending a final dividend of 2.80p ordinary share, making a total dividend for the year of 4.62p a share. This represents an increase over 1978 of 26.4 per cent. Together with the imputed tax credit, the total dividend is equivalent to a gross dividend for the year of 6.6p ordinary share.

Sanyo looks for 33pc rise

Sanyo Electric Company of Japan says it expects net income in the year ending November 30 to increase by about 33 per cent to 28.50bn yen from 21.99bn last year.

Sales are expected to rise about 13 per cent to 850.00bn yen from 754.10 bn last year, it says.

The company expected improvement mainly to anticipated higher overseas sales and

active domestic sales of audio equipment.

The company reported earlier a 14.9 per cent rise in net income in the year ended last November 30 to 21.99bn yen from 18.62bn in 1978, an up 14.3 per cent to 754.10bn from 659.89bn. Earnings per share rose to 28.51 yen from 26.31.

Domestic sales rose 16.5 per cent to 376.63bn yen from 323.29bn.

Opposition to a Sime bid

Malaysia's Negri Sembilan state government would look with "disfavour" at any attempt by Sime Darby to take over the London-based Guthrie Corporation, the state's chief minister, Mr. Rais Yatim, said yesterday.

He told reporters that Guthrie had some 75,000 acres of land in Negri Sembilan state alone and one-fifth of the populace was connected with Guthrie in

one way or another.

Any deal that resulted in partial or total sale of land in Negri Sembilan must be done in consultation with the state government, he added.

However, he did not state what the state government would do to prevent such a takeover and observers said the state has very little the state government could do.

Interest aids Robeco profit

Robeco, the Dutch Mutual Fund, says that high interest income in 1979 helped boost its profit level to F122m for a year-to-year rise of 11 per cent.

The fund is proposing a higher dividend at F19 per share up from F18 in 1978. The dividend is being paid on a larger share capital.

Robeco reported that total income rose by 11 per cent to F123m while expenses rose 20

per cent to F111.8m. This last year was influenced by extraordinary expenses of F12.6m which represent the incidental costs of renewing share certificates, the fund said.

Robeco's total net assets, before appropriation of F1 4.145bn against F14.206bn in 1978. The net asset value of one share of the fund amounted to F17.67, up from F16.13 in the previous fiscal period.

Slowdown for Rabobank

In comparison, the 1979 profits for the three largest Dutch banks were: Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank NV up 8 per cent to F127.5m, Algemeene Bank Nederland NV up 0.7 per cent to F127.3m and Nederlandsche Middenstandsbank NV up 25 per cent to F115.7m.

Weeks Petroleum

Weeks Petroleum of Connecticut and its subsidiaries had a turnover from oil and gas of \$1.0m for the year ended December 31, 1979, compared with \$13.9m for the previous year.

Pretax income was \$10.394m (1978: \$1.5). A dividend in respect of 1979 of 3.15 Australian cents per share (1978: 3.15 Australian cents) has been paid to holders of convertible deferred shares.

The directors do not intend to recommend a dividend on the ordinary shares.

CITY & COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT TRUST: Net revenue, after all charges, for year to January 31, 1980, was £480,000. Total dividend raised from 3.02p to 3.6p gross.

Exports help 10 pc increase at S W Farmer

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Family-controlled structural steelworker S. W. Farmer has managed to cope so far with the steel strike and although 1980 promises to be tough, the group expects to make further progress.

Profits in the year to December 31 rose by 9.3 per cent to £1.15m before tax on turnover up by 13.6 per cent to £13.8m.

With export business accounting for half of group turnover, Farmer has some protection from recession on the construction side. The group is also broadening its base by expanding its services division.

Services, which include crane and cabin hire, contributed all the gains in 1979, while steel profits were static.

Now accounting for a quarter of group profits, services will be enlarged by the recent acquisition of E. A. Roper which produces foundry equipment and about £3m pre-tax profit. Roper cost £315,000, of which £135,000 was satisfied by Farmer shares and the rest in guaranteed loan notes carrying interest four points below Midland Bank base rate.

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Reed offers £9m for LPP minority

By Richard Allen

Reed International is to bid £5 a share for the 52.8 per cent of London and Provincial Paper Group that it does not already own.

The agreed terms announced by Reed last night compare with a suspension price of 289p for London and Provincial at the beginning of this month and put a total value of around £5m on the deal.

The acquisition is to be effected through a scheme of arrangement and Reed is considering the possibility of issuing a short-dated loan note alternative to the cash offer.

At the same time, London and Provincial shareholders will be entitled to receive a second interim dividend of 10p net, which the group intends to announce for the year to December 31.

Figures for that year released by London and Provincial, but subject to final audit, show pretax profits of not less than £4.3m compared with £3m in 1978. Directors who are recommending the takeover to shareholders are to accept in respect of their holdings amounting to just over 2 per cent of the capital.

Reed, which has no trading links with London and Provincial, last night said it intends the group to continue to operate as a separate entity and that the acquisition should "not of itself" create any redundancies.

Formal documents are to be posted to shareholders as soon as possible.

British Tar Products: On conversion of their holdings of 10 1/2 per cent third, convertible unsecured loan stock, 1952, the National Coal Board Pension Funds has acquired 1.12m ordinary shares, making a holding of 1.53m ordinary shares (8.85 per cent).

Sun Company tops Deminex bid for Viking Oil

By Alison Mitchell

The shares of Viking Oil were requested yesterday following a widely anticipated counter-bid to the Deminex offer.

The new offer is American oil and gas group Sun Company and Viking shareholders are being offered £4 in cash or loan notes and one royalty unit for every share.

This is an increase of £1 a share on the Deminex terms.

Viking shares, which are traded under rule 163(3) on the stock market, rose almost 10p to close at £10.20, their high point of the day, suggesting that speculators expect a further offer. Last night the merchant bankers, S. G. Warburg, which are advising Deminex, did not rule out the possibility of another counter-bid and said that the German oil company was "considering its position".

The Viking directors have withdrawn their recommendation of the Deminex bid, are now backing Sun. The Viking's advisers, the 12 Linen Bank, admit that the packages are virtually identical, the board will recommend shareholders accept the one with the cash offer.

Holders of 30 per cent of Viking shares



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RESEARCH ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

The Financial Times Business Information Service needs a Research Assistant/Secretary to work for their newly appointed Head of Statistical Services. As a career development appointment applicants aged 23+ must have the ability to handle basic research projects, undertake statistical analysis, and be able to produce reports. Qualifications in Economics Statistics would be an advantage. Salary in the region of £5,000 p.a. 4 weeks holidays, subsidised restaurant. Please apply for application form to:

Susan Smith,
Personnel Officer,
The Financial Times,
Brecon House,
10 Cannon St.,
London EC4A 3DF.

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PA/Secretary wanted for young Senior Executive to handle his secretarial work (shorthand/typing) and organize his appointments. This is a job with a go ahead, friendly organization (20 people) in smart surroundings. You will have the chance to become involved and to learn about the business. Salary £5,500. Ideal age range 20-25. Ring 437 1126.

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We are looking for an experienced SECRETARY/P.A. to work with two Senior Directors who are about to join our rapidly growing Marine Insurance Division. Fast typing and accurate shorthand are of course, essential. Ideally we are looking for someone who has worked at Director level for several years, and has a flair for dealing with people. The ability to organize and maintain the various administrative systems within the office is also essential.

We offer an excellent salary, together with a benefits package which includes Private Patients Plan medical insurance; 50p Lunchtime Voucher per day; season ticket loan scheme; first class contributory pension scheme with life cover and permanent health insurance.

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Personnel Officer,
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Tel: Mary Bryon on 493 6165.

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The Chairman of the American Institute for Foreign Study, additional international organization in Kensington, requires a PA/Secretary. Duties include office personnel administration, taking minutes at Board meetings, special projects and work with the Chairman's G.D. duties. Applicants should have a C education, fast accurate shorthand and typing, a sense of humour and be able to use own initiative. Experience in the field of education would be helpful. Good prospects and generous benefits including travel, pension, free lunches and BUPA.

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

6.40 am Open University: Curriculum design and development; 7.0 Reading development; 7.30 Intrapersonal: Close down at 7.55.

9.05 For Schools, Colleges: Engineering; 9.55 It's Maths (re-tellings); 9.58 Let's Go; 10.12 Words and Pictures; 11.02 Everyday Maths; 11.25 You and Me: action (for the very young); 11.40 For Schools, Colleges: Kennerly Units; 11.42 English: Eye to pen to paper; 12.05 pm Russian-Langue and People: Part 9 (eating and drinking: repeat). Close down at 12.30.

12.45 News and weather.

1.00 Pebble Mill at One: More ideas on Indian cooking and an outside broadcast about fire fighting through the ages.

1.45 Playboard: Puppet show for children.

2.01 For Schools, Colleges: Watch (dinosaur); 2.15 Twentieth century history: road to Berlin; 2.40 Communicator 1 (comedy writing). Close down at 3.00.

BBC 2

6.40 am Open University: Electronic design and signal; 7.05 Reading development; 7.30 Intrapersonal: Close down at 7.55.

10.20 Chabbar: Magazine for Asian women; everything from sewing and cooking to popular music and a story. Close down at 10.45.

11.0 Play School: Same as BBC 1, 3.55. Close down at 11.25.

2.00 pm Racing from Cheltenham: The big event in the Queen Elizabeth Stakes; 2.15 Queen Mother, Champion Steeple Chase (at 2.50). We also see the 2.15, 3.30 and 4.05 races. See also BBC 2, 7.00. Close down at 4.20.

4.50 Open University: Structure of lysosomes; 5.15 Nature of chemistry.

5.40 Flash Gordon: Episode 13 of this early space adventure serial. In the Claws of Tigrion.

THAMES

9.30 For Schools: Facts for Life (concentration); 9.52 My World (lines); 10.10 How We Used to Live (Victorian morning); 10.35 French (hobbies, pets); 11.04 Srop, Look, Listen (plastics); 11.16 Finding Out (Colours); 11.36 Yorkshire Dales.

12.00 Adventures of Rupert Bear: Puppet story (r); 12.10 pm Rain-bow: safety hints for children; 12.30 The Sullivan: Australian family stories, set in the last war.

1.00 News; 1.20 Thames News; 1.30 Take the Night Road: Serial about a Scottish rural community.

2.00 After Noon Plus: The financial plight of Britain's 3,000,000 widows. Interview with June Hemer, founder and president of the National Association of Widows and Anthony Durran, MP. Also in the studio: exiled Soviet dissident Vladimir Lukovskiy who puts the Olympic Games in a wider context than Afghanistan.

2.45 The Outsiders: Australian-based stories, today; The con man at the hotel (Michael Craig).

3.45 Hobson's Choice: Derek Hobson's chat show.

4.15 The Sooty Show: With ventri-

BBC 1

3.25 Children's Warehouse: How to make a duffel coat (r).

3.55 Play School: Marion Green's story A House for a Mouse. The readers: Libby Murray and Derek Griffiths; 4.20 The Backyard: Cartoon. A Bag of Trouble; 4.25 Jackson: Jenny Agutter continues reading The Mill House Cat, by Marjorie Ann Ward; 4.40 Take Hart: Tony Hart with more picture-making for children; 5.00 John Craven's Newsworld; 5.10 God's Wonderful Railway; Dale Gribble's preparations for his world title lightweight fight with Jim Watt. (See Personal Choice).

5.05 Parkinson: His guests are Robert Redford, the Hollywood screen star, and Dr Billy Graham.

11.55 News headlines and weather.

BBC 2

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6.10 Farming.

6.30 Today.

8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00 News.

9.05 Mid-Week.

10.00 News.

10.05 Gardeners' Question Time.

10.30 Daily Service.

10.45 Story Time.

11.00 News.

11.05 Baker's Dozen.

12.00 News.

12.05 pm You and Yours.

12.27 Plays: Out in the Midday Sun; Chequematics.

12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

1.40 The Archers.

2.00 News.

2.02 Woman's Hour.

3.00 News.

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6.30 My Music.

7.00 News.

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7.20 Checkpoint.

7.45 The Profession of Intelligence (2).

8.45 File On 4.

9.15 Kaleidoscope.

9.59 Weather. 10.00 News.

10.30 The Life and Times of The Orchestra (5).

11.00 A Book at Bedtime.

11.15 Financial World Tonight.

11.30 Today in Parliament.

12.00 News.

12.15-12.30 am Shipping forecast.

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.

7.00 News.

7.05 Your Midweek Choice, 1: Handel, Corelli, Dittersdorf; 2: 8.00 News.

8.05 Your Midweek Choice, part 2: Handel, Sullivan, Well; 9.00 News.

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8.30 Six Continents.

8.50 Rozhdsvensky and BBC SO, part 2: Holst; 10.00 Short Story Competition.

10.30 Monday Night; 11.00 News; 11.15-11.30 am Shipping forecast.

VHF

6.50 am-7.00 Open University: Maths, Architecture and Design; Theatre and Television.

6.30 pm-7.00 Open University: History and Crime; Was Malibus Right?

WAVELENGTHS: Radio 1 medium wave 275m/1083KHz or 285m/1053KHz. Radio 2 medium wave 330m/909KHz or 433m/693KHz and 88.91 VHF. Radio 3 medium wave 247m/1215KHz and 90.92 VHF. Radio 4 long wave 1500m/200KHz and 92.95 VHF. Greater London area only; medium wave 720KHz/417m. LBC 261m, 97.3 VHF. Capital 194m, 95.8 VHF. World Service: medium wave 648KHz (463m). BBC Radio London 261m, 97.3 VHF.

Radio 4

6.00 am News Briefing.

6.10 Farming.

6.30 Today.

8.35 Yesterday in Parliament.

9.00 News.

9.05 Mid-Week.

10.00 News.

10.05 Gardeners' Question Time.

10.30 Daily Service.

10.45 Story Time.

11.00 News.

11.05 Baker's Dozen.

12.00 News.

12.05 pm You and Yours.

12.27 Plays: Out in the Midday Sun; Chequematics.

12.55 Weather.

1.00 The World at One.

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2.00 News.

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8.05 Your Midweek Choice, part 2: Handel, Sullivan, Well; 9.00 News.

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8.30 Six Continents.

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6.00 am News, weather. 5.03 Ray Moore; 5.32 Terry Wogan; 10.03 Jimmy Young; 10.05 pm David Hamilton; 10.07 Steve Jones; 4.10 Much More Music; 5.00 News; 5.05 Waggoner's Walk; 5.30 Much More Music; 6.03 Derek Hobson; 6.02 Listen to the Band; 6.45 Alan Dell; 9.15 Magic of the Musicals; 9.55 Sports Desk; 10.02 The News Round; 10.30 Eddie Waring; 11.02 Brian Matthew; 2.02-5.00 am You and the Night and the Music.

Radio 1

5.00 am As Radio 2. 6.00 Dave Lee Travis; 9.00 Simon Bates; 11.31 Paul Burnett; 2.00 pm Andy Peebles; 4.31 Kid Jensen; 7.00 Radio 1 Mailbag; 8.00 Mike Read; 9.50 Newsbeat; 10.02 John Peel; 12.00-5.00 am As Radio 2.

VHF RADIOS 1 AND 2: 5.00 am With Radio 1. 10.00 pm With Radio 1. 12.00-5.00 am With Radio 2.

Radio 3

6.55 am Weather.

7.00 News.

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Radio 3

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7.00 News.

7.05 Your Midweek Choice, 1: Handel, Corelli, Dittersdorf; 2: 8.00 News.

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Radio

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SITUATIONS WANTED . . . 25
WANTED . . . 25

For more information see additional copy of the Times, PO Box 7, New Printing House Square, City, London EC4A 3DF.

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PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD

We make every effort to avoid error in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proof read. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day mistakes do occur and we ask therefore that you check your ad and, if you spot an error report it to the Classified Queries Department immediately by telephone 01-837-1234 (Ext. 7180). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL COPIES IS 24 HOURS

Attention to copy is 3.00 pm prior to the day of publication. For Monday's issue the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

BIRTHS

AMES—On 8th March at the South London Hospital, to the wife of Mr. John Ames, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

ASHLEY—To Gloria and Martin, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

AUDAS—On 4th March at Leicester Royal Infirmary, to the wife of Mr. Robert Audas, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

BEIDAS—On 4th March 1980, at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Beidas, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

BEVAN—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Bevan, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

BRENNAN—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Brennan, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

GAYMAN—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Gayman, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

GOUGH—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Gough, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

HUGHES—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Hughes, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

MASTERS—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Masters, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

PARSONS—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Parsons, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

ROBERTS—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Roberts, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

SMITH—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Smith, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

THOMAS—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Thomas, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

WATSON—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Watson, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

WILLIAMS—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Williams, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

YOUNG—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Young, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

ZIMMERMAN—On 4th March at the Queen's Hospital, to the wife of Mr. Robert Zimmerman, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

ADDITIONAL BIRTHS: [List of names and dates]

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BIRTHS

GRICE—On 10th February 1980, to the wife of Mr. John Grice, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

JONES—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Jones, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

MACLEOD—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Macleod, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

PAUL—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Paul, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

PULLINGER—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Pullinger, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

TAYLOR—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Taylor, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

WATSON—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Watson, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

WILLIAMS—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Williams, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

YOUNG—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Young, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

ZIMMERMAN—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Zimmerman, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

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DEATHS

LANCLOTT—On 10th February 1980, to the wife of Mr. John Lancelott, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

LANCLOTT—On 10th March 1980, to the wife of Mr. Robert Lancelott, a daughter, a sister for Jennifer.

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